**METRO** / A25
**Suspected UP** hazing victim buried in Quezon

**COMICS** / D4
**A 'dyario novela'** by Carlo J. Caparas starts today

**WORLD** / A28
**US senator** in sex solicitation case steps down

Coke
IS THIS WEEK YOUR CHANCE TO SAY YES?

**Choice of costume stumps Australia**

SYDNEY—QUESTION security issues aside, one of the biggest headaches facing hosts India's three-month organizers is how to clothe 21 world leaders in traditional costumes.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, September 3, 2007 ++ 18 sections | Vol. 23 / No. 267 P18

**Bar examinees get pampered by backers**

By Lala B. Salaverria

ONE LAW GRADUATE DEFIED DOCTORS' orders for a complete bed rest for a week so she could review for the bar exam.

Others holed up in hotel rooms and stayed glued to their books on the eve of the tests, leaving their errands to law undergraduates.

# No climate change targets at Apec

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—PACIFIC RIM leaders meeting in Australia this week should strike an agreement at fighting global warming, but binding targets on greenhouse gas emissions should not be part of it, the host of the summit said yesterday.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, laying out reasons for putting global warming on the agenda of the normally trade-focused Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, said the blue-ball on microchip role to play in building a new global framework on climate change.

But a new approach, Howard said, should drish the emissions targets in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change in favor of voluntary strategies that recognize individual nations' varying levels of development.

"Our view is that we need a new Realite framework that includes a long-term global goal and encourages a wide range of national actions by all," she told reporters.

Howard, whose country is among the world's highest emitters of greenhouse gases per capita, has been a key opponent of the Kyoto pact, which expires in 2012. A major UN meeting in Bali, Indonesia, in December will begin working on a successor agreement.

Howard said that Apec leaders would discuss the possibility of setting emissions caps in the future, but that it was "very unlikely" they would agree on a target at that week's meeting.

Australia and the United States are the only two industrialized countries not to have ratified Kyoto, arguing that binding emission targets could harm economic growth and leave them at a competitive disadvantage to China and other developing countries not held to the pact's targets.

A document on climate change in-

POLICE guard the venue of the Asia-Pacific summit in Sydney.

# Erap to reject pardon

ITALIAN priest Giancarlo Bossi meets Pope Benedict XVI at a rally in Italy a month after he was freed by Filipino Moro kidnappers.

## 'I'll fight all the way to Supreme Court'

By Cil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A DEFIANT FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada will spurn any pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo as suggested by a substantial number of Filipinos should the Sandiganbayan find him guilty of plunder.

"Getting pardoned is an admission of guilt. I will exhaust all legal means to fight for justice, even if it means going to the Supreme Court," Estrada said yesterday said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

"From the very start, they (commanders of 5th Arroyo) have refused that I leave for the coun-

try of my choice, take anything I want and no charges will be filed against me. If I were guilty, me mabilis pa sa alas kuwatro (me disappear in just 15 would have accepted it right there and then)."

"But flight is a sign of guilt and I am not Jim Jim Bolante," (SEE P.A2)

## AFP exaggerating threat of Estrada supporters

By Armando Doronila

THE MILITARY IS DISPLAYING nervousness over the imminent promulgation sometime this month of the Sandiganbayan decision on the plunder case of deposed President Joseph Estrada. It is also trying to mobilize the nation by inflating the spectre of massive unrest a guilty verdict.

From many indications, the nation is not on edge.

But the inward flavors of the Philippines staged a show of force on Friday in ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo and Fort Bonifacio to demonstrate the military is ready to cope with any political disturbances that they fear Estrada supporters may foment in reaction to the decision, either conviction or acquittal.

The AFP and the Philippine National Police have been put on alert ahead of the Sandiganbayan's decision.

**ANALYSIS**

At Camp Aguinaldo, Maj. Gen. Rey Ibobedan, the new Marine commander, made an ostentatious inspection of close to 1,000 troops of the National Capital Region Command, including helicopters, armored personnel carriers and troop carrier trucks.

In Fort Bonifacio, headquar-

## Pope urges youth to save planet Earth

LORETO, ITALY—POPE BENEDICT XVI urged hundreds of thousands of young Catholics on Sunday to take better care of the planet and reverse environmental degradation, saying the world's water supply is particularly needs to be protected and shared to avoid conflicts.

Benedict offered a very environmentally message during an open-air Mass on the second day of a weekend religious youth rally in the pilgrimage town of Loreto that was organized by the Italian bishops' conference.

The Italian Church has designated Sept. 1 as "Save Creation Day" and as a result the Loreto meeting carried a strong environmental message, with each of the participants given biodegradable plates, recycling bags for their trash and a hand-

(SEE P.A2)

### 'She suffered from silence of God'

LORETO, ITALY—POPE BENEDICT XVI on Saturday said that even the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta "suffered from the silence of God" despite her immense charity work.

The Pope, addressing a youth rally in central Italy, referred to a new book that reveals that the Roman Catholic nun was deeply tormented about her faith and suffered pockets of doubt about God.

It is significant that the Pope mentioned Mother Teresa's torment about God's silence as not being unusual because

(SEE P.A2)

## *4 tickets in 4 states win $330-M jackpot*

SOMERSDALE, MARYLAND—FOUR winning tickets were sold for the estimated $330-million Mega Millions jackpot—one each in Maryland, New Jersey, Texas and Virginia.

"It wasn't true!" one disappointed customer shouted Saturday morning at Wildlife Liquors, the Scottingham store where Maryland Lottery officials said one of the tickets was sold.

Some had come forward on Saturday to claim a share of the top prize. In Virginia, at least, that cannot happen until Tuesday because the Virginia Lottery offices were closed for the long holiday weekend.

(TICKETS A-2)

## 'I hope Sison is finally punished'

By Carlo P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

NEGROS CITY—THE WIDOW of slain rebel leader Arturo Tabara said she was "overjoyed" by the arrest of Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in the Netherlands.

Veronica Tabara said the arrest of Sison on Tuesday and his trial in The Hague were the first steps to her "long and difficult quest" for justice for her husband and the "hundreds of others" whom Sison allegedly ordered killed over the years.

"I hope Sison (also has arrested

automobile for us to stop will finally be punished for the death of my husband and so many others," she said on the phone from somewhere in Metro Manila on Saturday night.

But Tabara acknowledged Sison's right to due process.

She said she and Gloria "Joy" Rimonte, widow of Romulo Kintanar, filed the charges against Sison in The Hague last year for ordering the murders of their husbands.

The filing of the charges in the Netherlands was facilitated by the Department of Justice because Tabara said she did not have the resources to do it on her own.

Sison, who has been in exile in the Netherlands since 1987, was arrested in his home in Utrecht for allegedly ordering the assassinations of Romulo Kintanar and Tabara.

Tabara, chair of the Iloilanawy Revolutionary Proletarian Brigade, was killed by New People's Army (NPA) hit men in Quezon City on Sept. 26, 2004, along with Stephen Ong, the husband of Tabara's daughter.

Kintanar, reformist member of the CPP Central Committee and chief of its armed wing, the NPA, until his arrest in 1993, was shot dead on

ARMY Scout Rangers torch the communist flag after raiding a rebel camp in Quezon.

Second FRONTPAGE

6/21 25 24 | Mid-Day 3 2 1 | 6/55 SUPERLOTTO 6/49 18 22 36 37 43 46 P21,441,452.20 | 4D's Lotto 9 8 9

WEATHER FORECAST

# 10 guards relieved over Lacson visit

By Christine O. Avendaño

TEN GUARDS AT A MILITARY DETENTION FACILITY in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, were reprimanded and relieved of their duties after they let Sen. Panfilo Lacson enter the premises and hold discussions with Marines and Scout Ranger officers being held for alleged complicity in the February 2006 coup attempt.

Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Artemio Bautista said Lacson did not have proper clearance to visit the rebel officers. The guards were found negligent.

Reacting to the news, Lacson said the rebel of the guards was "unfair," and that there was "nothing morally" about his visit to the facility.

He said he visited three with his staff members because he knew some of the Marines and Scout Ranger detainees. They were once attached to the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which he had headed.

The guards let him pass through the gates and didn't tell him that he was not permitted to enter the premises, he told the Inquirer.

He said he was not aware of any rule that only immediate family members and lawyers could visit the detainees without clearance.

Lacson said he had lunch with Marine Col. Ariel Querubin and other junior officers. He stayed there for at least three hours and left after Querubin got a call from the office of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., telling him to "cut short" the visit.

At any rate, Bautista reiterated orders for the "strict implementation of regulations for visitors" at the detention facility.

"Ang gusto lang kasi, huwag sila nakasanayan". Bukit nakapasok na kasi sila[illegible] yung approval. It was only the guards who were relieved ... why were they given the slip? ... why was the senator able to enter without first getting approved?" Bautista told reporters.

The military officer in charge that day said he had gone to its form higher authorities about the presence of Lacson but apparently the senator slipped through the guards before he returned.

Under the rules, only family members and lawyers of the detained military officers are allowed to visit. All other visitors will have to secure special permission from military authorities, according to Bautista.

"Probably the guards were overwhelmed because he (Lacson) is a senator and former general," Bautista added.

Asked whether Lacson would have been allowed entry if he requested clearance, Bautista replied in the affirmative. Lacson was a senator after all and was probably visiting to check living conditions there "in aid of legislation," he said.

**'WAITED HONEY'**
Members of the EcoWaste Coalition and the Freedom from Debt Coalition rally in front of the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City to criticize how the country's money is drawn away to pay for medical waste burners in 26 hospitals under the Department of Health.

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## Upscale golf club venue of Comelec conference

By Nikko Dizon

AN UPSCALE GOLF CLUB where the controversial broadband contract was supposedly discussed will be the venue of a three-day election assessment conference of the Commission on Elections this month.

Election stakeholders—from election reform advocates to Comelec officials—will gather at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City on Sept. 10-12 to discuss the country's electoral system and the ills besetting it.

Asked on Friday why the golf club was chosen as venue, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. replied that it was spacious enough to accommodate the participants.

It also has enough parking space, he added.

Abalos, a golfing aficionado, is the club's honorary member.

He has admitted he knew the officials of the ZTE Corp., the Chinese company with which the government entered a national broadband network deal, and had played golf with them.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had said Abalos was present when the project came up during a discussion at the golf club.

But Abalos on Saturday said Teves had apologized for making the claim.

Despite for comment, election reform advocate Ramon Casiple chuckled when told that the assessment conference would be held in Wack Wack.

"Meaning history ang Wack Wack sa kanya. (Wack Wack has a lot of memories for him) He wanted there as a caddy," Casiple told the Inquirer by phone. Casiple is a convenor of Bantay Halalan 2007 and executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER).

In its website, the Comelec said it was "hoped" that the assessment conference "will be a forum for stakeholders to also opportunity to present their observations and recommendations to the Commission on Elections under non-adversarial circumstances in the spirit of true cooperation."

Abalos said his group would seek the revamp of the Comelec "from top to bottom," starting with the appointment of the four new commissioners to fill vacancies next year, drawing up of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, poll modernization, voters' education, and fixing "loopholes" in the electoral system.

"It all boils down to bringing back the Comelec's credibility," he said.

## *Malacañang comes to defense of Abalos*

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY defended embattled Commissioner on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, saying his alleged involvement in the controversial $329-million broadband deal with China's ZTE Corp. was not an impeachable offense.

Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had already clarified the role played by Abalos in the deal which would involve the setting up of a national broadband network (NBN) among the archipelago.

"That's good, I think the allegations should stop already pending the tolerated case filed in court. Let the court decide and weigh the evidence," said Apostol.

He was referring to Abalos' claim that Teves, in a recent phone call, had supposedly apologized for saying that the Comelec chief was present when the project came up during a discussion at the Wack Wack Golf Club in Mandaluyong City.

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He was referring to Abalos' claim that Teves, in a recent phone call, had supposedly apologized for saying that the Comelec chief was present when the project came up during a discussion at the Wack Wack Golf Club in Mandaluyong City.

Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol said Finance Secretary Leandro Mendoza "by chance."

But Abalos said over the weekend that he's willing to face an impeachment proceeding because "I did not do anything wrong."

He voluntarily denied playing any role in the negotiations between China and the Philippines on the broadband network. Michael Lim Ubac

# 9 senators vs 'Garci' probe–Migz

BAGUIO CITY — PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in the Senate are playing the civil rights card to protect her from the revival of the "Hello, Garci" controversy.

Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri said he and eight other senators would try to stop the Senate from listening to the allegedly wiretapped conversations of the President and an election official during the 2004 presidential race, before a Senate committee officially opens a probe on Thursday.

He said they would argue that it would violate the civil liberties of Ms Arroyo.

"Otherwise, we will pursue a restraining order by going to the Supreme Court," said Zubiri, who opened the National Leadership Training for Student Governments at Teachers' Camp here on Sunday.

Zubiri, however, did not identify the senators who would join him in raising the question on the propriety of using the wiretapped conversations in the investigation.

He said moves came after the senators agreed to reopen the investigations into the wiretapping scandal in an Aug. 28 caucus. The meeting, however, left unsettled the debate as to whether they are pursuing it to debate in the proceedings.

Zubiri said it was "timely" that senators, like Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, have been insistent about "restoring the civil rights of Ms Arroyo," when they fought to include civil rights safeguards in the anti-terror law (Human Security Act of 2007). Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Numerous factors continually affect the skin as it matures, ranging from external ones (such as sun exposure and pollutants) to the natural aging process. Over time, as the skin is supposed to various elements, it may acquire blemishes. Dark spots, acne scars and other forms of pigmentations are examples of some imperfections the skin may experience as a result of aging.

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# NGOs seek House probe of Aussie exploration project

By TJ Burgonio

A BROAD AL... of NGOs is seeking a House inquiry into an Australian firm's exploration project in an upland town in Nueva Vizcaya that has sparked violence between the firm's workers and the town's indigenous people.

Deputy Secretary... said it found out that the Oxiana Philippines Inc. project lacked "the... consent" from the majority of communities.

The group was on a fact-finding mission to Kasibu town in the aftermath of Barbers day's dispersal of... ial rally to demand... ary hours employed by Oxiana.

Deputy Secretary... said it would ask Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño and Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla to open an inquiry into the lack of free and prior informed consent from the communities about the project.

"Overwhelmingly, there is a glaring lack of consent from majority of the communities to be affected by mining," said the group's spokesperson Clemencio Bautista.

The same abuse, he said, because of the loopholes in the mining law, where foreign companies or their subsidiaries could secure exploration permits with... our consent from local government units or majority of the people.

"Oxiana officials have agreed to stop everything ... that they're doing until all issues have been resolved. We welcome this," Bautista... Secretary Joselito Adriano said.

Scores of people were hurt on Wednesday after militiamen in plain clothes dragged away tribal... who had barricaded a mountain road in Barangay Pinsguet to stop Oxiana work... from hauling a bulldozer into the exploration area.

Members of the Bagkalan, Kalangayan, Bukid and Bugan tribes had been manning the barricade since July 12 to stop the transport of heavy equipment in the site.

On President Macapagal-Arroyo's instructions and follow-up Nueva Vizcaya request, Ministers on Tuesday ordered Oxiana to stop transporting equipment to the site to avoid fresh violence.

Despite Abaroso's order, the Oxiana Philippines Inc. project... the Oxiana Philippines Inc. project... the Oxiana Philippines Inc. project...

# Roxas questions 'undue haste' in China loan deal

SEN. MANUEL "MAR" ROXAS II is questioning the Arroyo administration's undue haste in forging a $130 million loan deal with China for several big rubber projects, including the controversial $329 million broadband deal with ZTE Corp. of China.

"Contrary to the position of the Department of Finance, it is highly unusual for the government to enter into a bilateral loan with China Export-Import Bank without clarifying what this loan is for," said Roxas in a statement.

"In our history, the government has been blamed with rushed and unwise contracts that have only resulted in disputes and abuse. Now we are signing a P66 billion loan agreement for a project whose contract we have yet to see and which obviously was the result of political lobbying rather than public interest," he said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves signed a $400 million credit line with executives of China Export-Import Bank which pushed the country's Overseas credit line to $1.8 billion.

The new credit facility is likely to be used to bankroll ZTE's contract to establish a broadband network for the government. The project was initially pushed as a build, operate and transfer project at no cost to the government.

Roxas had questioned not only the government's lack of transparency in drafting the ZTE contract but also its "panicky judgment" in entering a contract which has very little impact on the most pressing demands of the public for more jobs and higher wages.

The public bidding was conducted for the broadband project and the original contract was reportedly lost in China.

"It is not a priority project in the minds of the people. The executive branch is imposing on the people another dollar-denominated loan without explaining to them what this loan is for," Roxas said.

"Worse, we may start paying this loan without even seeing the ZTE contract itself. I urge the DOF to clamp the ZTE contract and seriously reconsider not taking the loan." — Cff Cuba and pen Al


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## Maynilad bridges supply gap in Cavite

MAYNILAD Water has completed the interconnection of the Binakayan 600-mm bridge pipe crossing, which linked Maynilad's supply line from Bacoor, Cavite to the Kawit side of Binakayan River.

With the project's completion, 18 barangays in Kawit and one barangay in Imus have been provided with increased water supply from 3.2 million liters per day (mld.) to 4.87 mld., and water pressure from 0-1 psi. to 6-7 psi.

"Finally, we can bring more water to areas of Cavite under our coverage, and eventually reach still unserved areas in the region. Expect to have further developments in Cavite's water supply, as more engineering initiatives like this bridge pipe crossing are done, and as the new management of Maynilad steps up its efforts to improve water service in the South," Maynilad president Ruperto Siegson said.

Kawit, Imus and nearby areas in Cavite used to have only one primary source of water, the Novaliches reservoir, which collects groundwater from deep wells like the Malarnok and Balsahan deep wells.

"Through the bridge pipe, we are able to supplement with surface water the groundwater supply of Kawit and neighboring municipalities," Maynilad WP for Construction Shumardo Cariapa explained.

Resting on a pair on both ends and supported by four columns of reinforced concrete, the 600-mm Binakayan service pipe weighs 15 tons, spans 75 meters long across Binakayan River, and runs parallel to Binakayan Bridge along Tirona Highway in Cavite.

This bridge pipe will also serve as the main supply vein for Maynilad's further expansion efforts in Cavite for the next few years, as the water firm earmarked P1.5 billion from its nine-year Capital Investment Plan (CIP) costing P33 billion to lay 600 km. of new pipes in the region.


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# SC upholds conviction of 2 eng'rs in ghost projects

By Lolita B. Salamero

THE SUPREME Court has upheld the handicapped Bataan's conviction of two civil engineers in the public works department for their role in a multimillion-peso highway scam involving ghost projects in Cebu.

It dismissed the petition of Simon Serrano Jr. and Expedito Torrevillas, who questioned their conviction in six and nine cases, respectively, for estafa through falsification of public documents and for signing fake delivery documents that led to the disbursement of public funds for the nonexistent road projects.

The 1977 term, involving an "engineer scholar" at the Cebu Port Highway Engineering District, gave rise to 119 criminal cases involving 36 former officials and employees of the then Ministry of Public Highways and suppliers of construction materials.

"The infamous P66-million highway scam has few parallels in the annals of crime in the country," the high court said in its big, 24-decision.

The team investigated the issuance of fake letters of advice of allotments, vouchers and other documents for the release of public funds for nonexistent road works. The trail was covered up with the connivance of other officials.

The Supreme Court denied no merit in the two engineers' "feeble" contention that they were unaware of the plan of their co-accused, led by Chief Accountant Rolando Mongaben of the then Ministry of Public Highways in Central Visayas, to defraud the government.

Serrano and Torrevillas ripped the lame excuse that they were ordered to sign the vouchers by their superiors without verifying their facts, it said. "Those tally sheets were attached as supporting documents to Sdo. Urbs and subsequently became the basis for the disbursements of public funds to the damage of and prejudice of the government. Undeniably there exists not even an iota of doubt as to petitioners' guilt," it said.

It also cited the testimonies of barangay officials who said there were no major repair works on the highways where the materials for the road works in the tally sheet were supposedly delivered. Hence, the delivery of materials and supplies for the upgrading and repair of roads did not take place.

# SC affirms circular on LPG dealers' sanctions

THE SUPREME Court has denied with finality the motion for reconsideration filed by the LPG Refillers Association of the Philippines Inc., which sought to nullify a Department of Energy circular prescribing sanctions on unscrupulous dealers of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The group said the acts punished by the circular were beyond the scope of Batas Pambansa Blang 33, which penalizes only the manufacture of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders that do not conform to the standards set by the Bureau of Product Standards.

The circular imposes fines and other penalties for LPG marketers, refillers or dealers who:

- Do not have a price display board or weighing scale.
- Sell LPGs with incorrect weight without using approved LPG seals, trade name or serial numbers.
- Brand, tamper with or refill LPG cylinders without authorization.
- Sell underfilled LPG cylinders and do not pay fines or cooperate with authorized inspectors.

Penalties range from a fine of P500 to P10,000 for each cylinder, and a recommendation to the local government unit that the business be closed.

The high court found no merit in the group's argument that the sanctions imposed under the circular were not specified in BP 33.

"Unmistakably the specific acts and omissions cited in the circular are within the contemplation of BP Blg. 33, as amended. The DOE, in issuing the circular merely filled up the details and the manner through which the BP Blg. 33, as amended may be carried out. Indeed, Nothing extraneous was provided in the circular that could result in its invalidity" it said in an Aug. 28 resolution. Cebu Business


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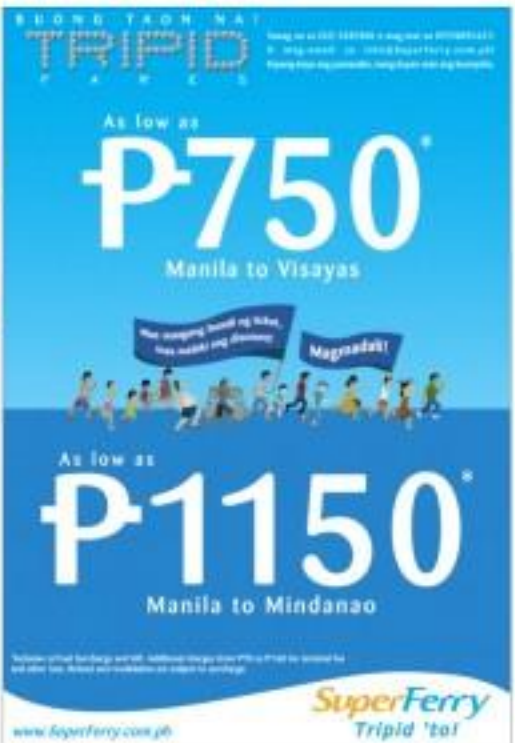

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| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 349 | $ 1,149 |
| Port Charges | $ 196 | |

7N Mediterranean Cruise

(Barcelona RT)

RCI's "Voyager of the Seas"

Sail Date: 20 October 2007

| Prices Starting From: | (Inside Cabin) | (Ocean View) |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 900 | $ 1,700 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 1,000 | $ 1,800 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 349 | $ 1,049 |
| Port Charges | $ 230.00 | |

10N Italy & Croatia Cruise

(Rome RT)

RCI's "Legend of the Seas"

Sail Date: 24 October 2007

| Prices Starting From: | (Inside Cabin) | (Ocean View) |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 849 | $ 1,799 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 1,319 | $ 2,279 |
| Veranda Stateroom | $ 1,419 | $ 2,319 |
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| Port Charges | $ 342 | |

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Sail Date: 13 October 2007

| Prices Starting From: | (Inside Cabin) | (Ocean View) |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 970 | $ 1,870 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 1,394 | $ 2,294 |
| Veranda Stateroom | $ 1,640 | $ 2,540 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 349 | $ 1,419 |
| Port Charges | $ 340.00 | |

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

8N Pacific Northwest

(Seattle RT)

Celebrity's "Mercury"

Sail Date: 01 October 2007

| Prices Starting From: | (Inside Cabin) | (Ocean View) |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 230 | $ 780 |
| Ocean View Stateroom (CV) | $ 350 | $ 910 |
| Veranda Stateroom | $ 380 | $ 1,030 |
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10N Canada & New England Cruise

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Sail Date: 05 October 2007

| Prices Starting From: | (Inside Cabin) | (Ocean View) |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 1,199 | $ 2,149 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 1,699 | $ 2,599 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 599 | $ 1,499 |
| Port Charges | $ 407 | |

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7N Eastern Caribbean Cruise

(Miami RT)

RCI's "Liberty of the Seas"

Sail Date: 29 September 2007

| Prices Starting From: | (Inside Cabin) | (Ocean View) |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 930 | $ 1,580 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 930 | $ 1,600 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 599 | $ 1,199 |
| Port Charges | $ 264 | |

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|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 489 | $ 779 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 599 | $ 919 |
| Port Charges | $ 114.00 | |

4N Spice of Southeast Asia Cruise

(Singapore RT)

Royal Caribbean's "Rhapsody of the Seas"

Sail Date: 20 September 2007

| Prices Starting From: | (Inside Cabin) | (Ocean View) |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 619 | $ 939 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 779 | $ 1,099 |
| Port Charges | $ 108 | |

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# 'Panatag sa Smokey Mountain,
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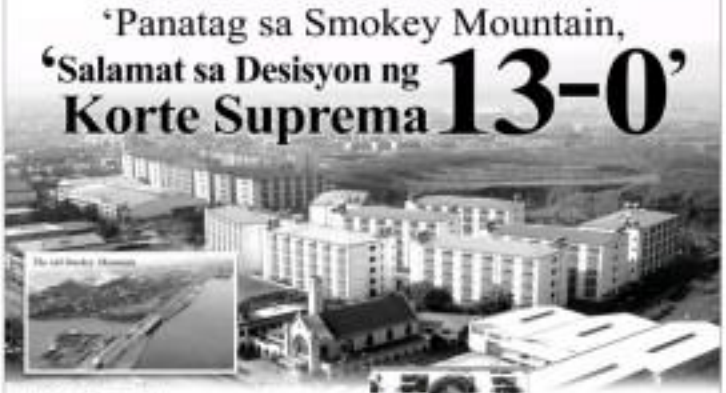

The old Smokey Mountain

*By Ruth-Ann Kagaoan – Cubo*

Quite residents of Smokey Mountain still remember when their community used to be called Basura Mundangan (Folderview) Community). Its residents could catch fish using small boats called banca along the nearby river of Navotas. Its other name was Quezon, because it still had the Quezon huts left by the Americans after World War II.

In the early 80s, Mike Aliado garbage started being dumped onto the shoreline of Manila Bay. Then the river of Navotas also became polluted. Eventually, it began to become hard to play by father away from the banks as it was risky for fish to be caught, and the residents of Barrio Mandaragat had to resort to scavenging to survive.

Angelito Ferrera, 42, father of 8 children, said his boat in the 80's became their sole nothing anymore to fish when he used to catch fish and shrimps. His father and his grandfather had lived in this Tondo area since the liberation from the Japanese occupation, and he grew up seeing the river as a source of food and livelihood.

In 1993, when the area was already turned into a dumpsite, the government demolished the squatter homes and relocated its residents to Bulihan, Silang, Cavite. However, all that was there waiting in Bulihan for the former dumpsite residents was a comfort room cubicle. There was no livelihood and so many of them eventually returned to Smokey Mountain, where they could generate income from scavenging.

In the years leading to 1996, the world's media put its focus on Smokey Mountain. First-World unions found unbelievable a community of people living amidst, and making a living out of, the mountain range-like mayhem-causing mounds of garbage. That community became to the world a symbol of Philippine poverty.

### 'Feeling Rich'

Life got better for the Smokey Mountain shanty-dwellers when they were granted homeowners certificates by the **Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP)**, a joint project of the **National Housing Authority (NHA)** and **R-O Builders, Inc.**

The men of Smokey Mountain used to lie on the G.I. sheets of their shanty roofs to keep typhoon winds from blowing off their makeshift dwelling. Worries as large as their fingers crushed out smoke the rising wastes brought by rains. Now the Smokey Mountain families enjoy toilets, showers, and bedroom lofts and have concrete buildings to live in. They are no longer bothered by strong rains or floods or worries.

Since transferring to the housing units, the Smokey Mountain residents have reclassified their

status. "Feeling mayaman na kami dito. Imagine mo may comfort room at shower na kami. (We feel rich here. Now we have comfort rooms and showers)," says Norma Santiago, 46, mother of 3. And so they have retained their community "Paradise Alaska Condominiums."

### Employment for Smokey Mountain Residents

Today, most male residents of Smokey Mountain are still making their livelihood from scavenging in other dumpsites, while the other men are drivers of sidecars and jeepneys. Most female residents do not have work except to take care of their children, while the other women do part-time vending.

Some Smokey Mountain residents, however, have been hired by locators of the adjacent Manila Harbour Center, which was set up on the reclaimed land that was part of the SMRDP.

William Morallos, 33, father of 3, and grandfather of 3, found employment as a utility man with the same company of R-O Builders. Before his employment, he was skinny, but now he is a picture of health and contentment. He used to resort to loan sharks to capitalize his fish vending enterprise, but now he is assured of regular salary.

Norma affirms that most men in their community really hope to land jobs with locators at the site, which, she adds, is not only near them but also provides stable employment. She deplores, however, the fact that when developers of the project, including former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, started filing cases against the project, the business locators stopped coming.

### Supreme Court and Faith in the Future

The August 15 Supreme Court decision gave them increased confidence in the future. Pronounced by Justice Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., the Supreme Court decision upheld the validity of the Smokey Mountain project, which was given full support by two Philippine presidents, former President Cory Aquino and former President Fidel Ramos.

Norma expresses, "*Malaki talaga ang pasasalamat namin to Supreme Court. Patunay na dapat na kaming mga mahirap ay may karapatan din.*" (We express our profound thanks to the Supreme Court. Now we feel secure about our stay.)

"*Sana hayaan na lang kaming mamuhay nang tahimik at yung mga scavengers, tsaakang ulilang lupa kaming mga wala* (We wish that we would be allowed to live in peace and that those who want to bring the project down would be considerate towards us who have nowhere)," she adds.

"*Natatakot kami, dahil kaming ayaw-ayaw ni Chavez ang Smokey Mountain development, bahili kami sa bundok.* (We were afraid, because if Chavez managed to void the Smokey Mountain development, we would be back to the mountains)," says Norma, who is a composer of the Smokey Mountain Alliance of Concerned Beneficiaries.

What the Smokey Mountain residents need now is not more opposition but better livelihood opportunities.

"*Umaasa kamingmga bataalna wala dating problema dito. Hanapan na lang ang problema namin* (Later somehow, or soon, or Rosal we have no problem here. Our only worry is how to pay for our units.)," quips Amelia Cimatorio, 54, widow, mother of 6, grandmother of 12, and six resident since 1964.

### Mountains of Dreams and Hopes

Leonora Camanero, 41, mother of 7, and six-months pregnant with her 8th child, counts on the solemn driving of her husband and her two eldest sons for their family's sustenance. "*Pinagsap ko makapagtrabaho ang mga anak ko* (I wish that my children could find work)," Leonora sighs. For them, "work" means permanent, salaried work.

At 39 and still girlish-looking, May Celinda is already going to be a grandmother this year. Her husband, an ex-con repairman, is now doing manual work as a driver. Her eldest is now 22 and is following his father's footsteps as an ex-con repairman. Her dream is simple. "*Patapusin lang makaipon kami ng pagkakasal.* (I hope that we can finish our annulment)," says May.

Alicia Bongolan, 50, mother of 6, and grandmother of 3, lived right on the top corner of the mound of garbage that "grew" as Smokey Mountain's facade. "*Dito nasi bonjove al langoy sa pagkain ang isig kaming kasama libihan, we always had rooms, and giant flies and flies always hovered over our food),*" Alicia recalls.

Three of Alicia's children studied (several-year college and one is a third-year college scholar of Smokey Mountain's beloved parish priest, Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD, who has been working among the residents of Smokey Mountain since 1978, a decade before Smokey Mountain became a parish.

### Unleashed Opportunities

Father Ben, these days, has become a busier man. The Supreme Court decision, to him, has unleashed opportunities for Smokey Mountain. "Many doors for help have opened. *Ang daming bukang na dumadaloy. Dikare* help is flowing in)," he states, for his position as his parish website address **www.smokeymountain.org** wisely provides an update of the church-initiated assistance projects.

"We are building here the world's first green church – the Church of Hope." Being built out of recycled materials and to be provided with environment-friendly features, the Church of Hope edifice will also house high-tech enterprises that will make a "Silicon Mountain" or a digitized community out of Smokey Mountain.

Father Ben sees the world judging this Filipino community by the Rule that it bears. "Our events are trooping to the Manileno waterfront to plant trees on behalf of donors. Our community is rising as a world symbol for caring for our planet," Father Ben concludes.

# AFP eng'rs fielded

THE PHILIPPINE AIR force will mobilize engineering unit to Mindanao this week to undertake infrastructure projects in the conflict-affected communities of Jolo and Basilan, where the military is battling the Abu Sayyaf.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Ibrado said the 352nd Air Engineering Wing with 60 men would bring tools and heavy equipment to upgrade roads near the conflict zone.

"This is part of the humanitarian effort that the government wants to pursue in Mindanao. Our combat engineers will go to Jolo and Basilan to pave roads there in order to spur economic development," Ibrado said.

He said the engineering unit, including technical personnel, and dump and cargo trucks, would be shipped to the area by a vessel of the Philippine Navy. The team is expected to be sent to Sulu by Wednesday.

Ibrado hopes to reduce violence there by showing the residents that the government is really serious in its goal of uplifting their lives. We want to provide them with the basic necessities, and roads are one of those," said Ibrado.

Nestor Quinones

# War zones 'quiet' in Basilan, Sulu

By Julie S. Alipala
*Inquirer Mindanao*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—IT'S ALL QUIET ON the battlefronts.

Despite the thousands of government troops already there, the battle zones in the Basilan and Sulu have been quiet for a week now.

In Basilan, Mayor Joel Maturan of Ungkaya Pukan and Jubilan Kunam of Albarka town told the Inquirer that it had been quiet since the last reported fight on Aug. 26.

Military operations are concentrated in the towns of Ungkaya Pukan, Albarka, Tuburan and Tipo-tipo (Central).

A total of nine battalions have been deployed in Basilan.

Jolo is also reportedly quiet.

## Eight battalions

A total of eight battalions or at least 4,000 soldiers are deployed in the province, according to AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. last week ordered soldiers deployed in Basilan and Jolo to "defeat and destroy the Abu Sayyaf group and lawless elements as soon as possible."

Aside from the seven battalions of Marines, Army special operations and military forces, Esperon announced on Wednesday the deployment of two fighting battalions from the Philippine Army and Philippine Air Force, or a total of nine battalions in Basilan alone.

Basilan's Task Force Thursday, under Brig. Gen. Anacleto Saliman, is hunting around 80 Abu Sayyaf fighters, including Puruji Indama and Isnarudin Muddysing alias Commander Dad, who were earlier reported to have been killed in a clash with government soldiers.

## Intelligence-driven

In Sulu, Task Force Comet chief Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Ibañez said their operation was more "intelligence-driven."

"Gathering more information on the ground and at the same time intensifying our civil military operations," Ibañez said.

Ibañez said government troops in Sulu are pursuing about 200 Abu Sayyaf bandits, including Indonesian terrorists Umar Patek and Dulmatin.

Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, Western Mindanao Command chief, said the deployment of more troops in the two provinces would enable them to decisive the course of combat operation and "impose our will against the terrorists."

The military is also constructing roads, building and repairing schools, bridges, tapping potable water and other infrastructure projects in Jolo and Basilan.


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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 3, 2007
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Thes 4:13-18
Gospel: Luke 4:31-39

When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind, to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying, 'Doctor, heal yourself! Perform here in your own native city any wonders I've heard you've done elsewhere.'"

Jesus added, "No prophet is favored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was sent to none of them but to a widow of Sarepta in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which their town is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary:

We are reminded about belief, about death and resurrection. We live to hope, and die in hope. We live the resurrection life from the moment of our baptism, proclaiming it in our lives, and we doubt we are one step closer to the Lord of Life.

The Church thinks that Jesus will come back soon and they speak of it as if they know what is going to happen, using language that is typical of literature about the end times. We are to concern our number not with the end of the world but with the life that is ours now to live over again and yearned. All times the world's end to God's hands. We are to be concerned with now—today. We are to do the five things that we teach work in the world, and make God's word do its handiwork in Jesus come true in our lives and world. Today the 30 Days campaign comes to an, when we hear it, believe it, obey it, and apply our lives as it. The Spirit of the Lord are called to make this life available for all. Do we even preach well enough with our lives that we are opened ones?

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# Bahrain targets absconding foreign workers

MANAMA, Bahrain—Bahrain is forcing absconding workers to leave the country or face jail, in a bid to curb illegal labor working in the tiny Gulf state, officials said Monday.

The embassies of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines as well as those of Arab states—Egypt, Jordan and Iraq—would collect the passports of their respective nationals from the employers throughout September, the Labor Market Authority said in a statement.

The statement, received by AFP, said that employers would not be fined or otherwise penalized if they handed over the passports.

The labor watchdog was created by the government two years ago to promote the employment of Bahrainis and make them more competitive than foreign workers by imposing more taxes on the recruitment and employment of foreigners.

Unemployment has been a key concern in Bahrain, where only Gulf nationals don't need oil and whose economy relies heavily on banking and other services.

Some 250,000 expatriates, mostly from Asia, work in Bahrain, making up roughly a third of the Gulf state's population of around 707,000. AFP

# Environmental audit of RP treaties urged

By Vincent Cabreza
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BAGUIO CITY—ADMINISTRATOR Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, ending himself as the country's Al Gore, said he would push for an audit of the country's environmental agreements affecting global warming, even if the senate needs to work with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gore, a former US vice president, has been identified with the climate change campaign since he starred in the Oscar-lauded award-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

Zubiri opened this year's National Leadership Training for Student Governments at Teachers' Camp from the outgoing chairs in a allegedly environment.

He said about 9,000 student governments leaders that this year's prolonged dry spell, the driest succession seems that struck in a span of a week in August, as well as the tornadoes that hit several villages in the country were sure signs of global warming.

Zubiri said the Arroyo administration has launched various projects aimed to help reverse climate change because of weather patterns that need to be addressed for the Philippines."

But he said the government must first consolidate all environment-related treaties it has signed, "because ang dami dami nating na ratify (we have ratified so many agreements), many of which we don't even understand ... we don't even know."

At a news conference, Zubiri said treaties crushed in generic legal language almost cost the country a trade agreement that would have permitted the entry of local coal to the country.

He was referring to the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), which was revised last year by international environment groups for a provision that apparently grants incentives for the trade of waste materials.


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# BI under fire from COA for office repairs

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BUREAU OF immigration is under fire for spending more than P4 million on its offices' repair without public bidding and without an approved annual procurement plan last year.

It also served as a "dummy agent" for private contractors overstating some P3.3 million in order deductions from its employees' salaries, a violation of a public bidding statute, according to the Commission on Audit.

In the 2006 audit report on the BI, the COA disclosed that between February and August 2006, the bureau spent P1,087,844.10 and P1,067,075.71 on repairs and rehabilitation of its central office, at the building annex Spanish Consulate and at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan City, respectively.

In its audit of the expense account for the repair works, the COA noted several irregularities such as the absence of a public bidding contrary to the provisions of the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA).

Due to the lack of bidding, the repair contracts were not awarded by only one contractor, Michaelson Construction, the report said.

The repair works were also not supported by an approved Annual Procurement Plan, another requirement under the GPRA costing to the absence of documentary requirements such as approved agency estimates, certificate of acceptance and certificate of satisfactory.

The report also said that job orders were split to avoid the public accountability and approval, considering that the amount had exceeded the agency authority vested in the Immigration commissioner.

In its comment, the BI explained that "splitting" was not meant to circumvent bidding requirements but was merely an expedient measure due to changes in security set up being ordered by the Manila International Airport Authority.

The repair works done in the BI detention cell in Camp Bagong Diwa were "emergency" in nature due to the damages brought about by typhoons, the BI added.

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# AFP inflating threat of Erap supporters

From page A1

ion of the Marines and hotbed of military unrest since the aborted coup attempt including Marine units on Feb. 24-26, 2006, Estrada inspected the troops, their arms, as well as their ammunitions.

Estrada tried to round up the public mood in the state of nervousness of the security forces. He told reporters: "We are now ready for any contingency that may happen. The objective is to maintain peace, order and stability in the PNP."

Estrada said the worst-case scenario could happen, including a repeat of the May 1, 2001, attack on Malacañang by Estrada partisans after he was arrested to stand trial on plunder charges. Estrada is the first Filipino President to be charged with criminal offenses in the courts of justice.

### Inflated threat

The action stroked Estrada's supporters, who found it too excessive after he was forced out of office following the collapse of his administration when the AFP withdrew its support.

The military deployments in anticipation of disturbances appear to be out of proportion to the threat of public disorder, and did not reflect public concern over the inflated threat.

They succeeded only in revealing the military high command's lack of confidence in the solidarity of the security forces and, by implication, the uncertain loyalty of the entire AFP to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

### Garci tapes scandal

The deployments coincided with the re-opening of the Garci tapes scandal in the Senate.

The Senate on Wednesday voted to revive the investigation of the tapes by referring the case to three committees—the committee on national defense, the Blue Ribbon committee and the committee on constitutional amendments.

The vote came after Sen. Panfilo Lacson introduced a new testimony by a former military intelligence agent that he said a team of agents of the military intelligence service wiretapped a telephone conversation between Mr Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano purporting to show that the allegedly attempted to tamper with the outcoming of the 2004 election returns.

### Reopening old wound

The new investigation will reopen the legislative issue that has damaged the Arroyo presidency since 2005.

The reference of the case to the Senate committee on national defense is bound to reopen the sensitive issue of security breaches involving a presidency being spied upon by intelligence agents who are alleged to have eavesdropped not only on presidential telephone conversations but also on those of opposition figures during the 2004 elections.

### No signs of unrest

There is no sign that Estrada supporters are restive in anticipation of the Sandiganbayan's decision, or that they are so outraged as they were when he was arrested.

There is no visible sign that his followers are being mobilized to take street action to prevent a guilty decision.

Such a disruption is not expected, but there are fears that the decision could be used by fragmented groups inside the security forces as a galvanizing issue to foment military unrest over the legitimacy issue on the Arroyo presidency.

### Disgruntled groups

Since the collapse of his administration in 2001, Estrada has lost much of his support among former loyalists in the AFP.

The concern lies in that disgruntled groups in the AFP, especially those facing trial on charges related to recent mutinies, would use the Sandiganbayan's decision to foment further dissatisfaction inside the security forces.

The public appears prepared to take a decision calmly whatever it is.

### SWS survey

A confidential survey conducted by Social Weather Stations in July found that almost half of Filipinos in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces want Mr Arroyo to immediately pardon Estrada if he is found guilty while another 38 percent favor pardon "after some time."

### Still hoping

Estrada, however, would not unequivocally say whether he would rather spend more time in prison than get a free pass from Mr Arroyo.

"I will not preempt the Sandiganbayan on this matter. I still believe they will decide (based) on the merits of the case," he said.

The former President's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, said that while his father was happy with the people's sympathy with his plight, "we will not accept any pardon because that will only mean he's guilty, and he is not."

The younger Estrada said the survey should be a warning to Mr Arroyo not to tamper with the country's justice system because all eyes were on his father's case.

"We all know she is incumbent but this time, she should be sensitive to this strong public opinion against her," said Senator Estrada.

The older Estrada took the results of the survey as further validation of his belief that 55 percent regard him highly despite efforts by the Arroyo administration to blacken his image since being ousted in an Edsa People Power revolt in 2001.

### Support even from A,B,C

"I want to thank the people for continuing to believe in me in spite of the fact that I have spent the last six years, five months and eight days in jail," the ousted leader said.

Estrada was also elated that his most support extended in the middle and upper classes, with 70 percent of the respondents belonging to the Class A, B and C levels.

"The SWS survey just shows that the people consistently believe in me and not in this administration," he said.

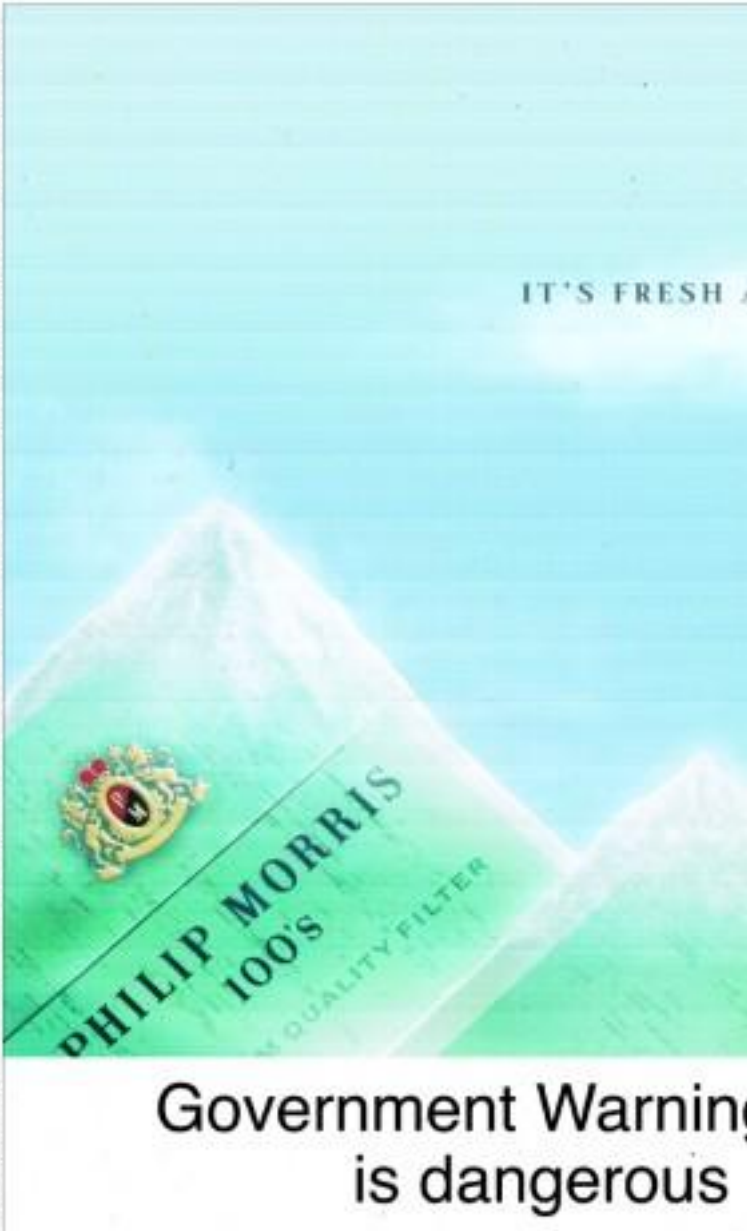
National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said the massive deployment of troops in the hands of Malacañang was "routine" as well.

"There are two days left before Erap is sentenced. Syempre (President Arroyo) has to be sure that everything is in order—it's up to them," Gonzales said.

Gonzales said the deployment of troops "does not indicate we have any intelligence information that there will be violence after the verdict," Agence France-Presse reported on Thursday.

"We'll have to wait and see. We just don't want any untoward incident coming out with the verdict," he said.

*With reports from Michael Lim*



# Sison denied access to media

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER LAST FRIDAY'S HEARING, Jose Ma. Sison has been denied access to TV, radio and newspapers in his cell at a penitentiary facility in The Hague, the Netherlands, his Filipino lawyer said yesterday.

The founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, now facing charges for the killings of two former comrades, has also been barred from receiving medicine from outside, and receiving visitors except his lawyer.

"The present treatment being given to him is the same kind of treatment given to prisoners being held by the United States in Guantanamo," lawyer Romeo Capulong said in a phone interview.

"Clearly, these are violations of his rights under international law. In fact, he should be accorded his rights as a prisoner of conscience. The Dutch government has no right to treat him as a terrorist," Capulong said.

But National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said Sison was being treated fairly under Dutch laws.

"The trial is not in the Philippines, but in the Netherlands, and the Dutch (government) is known for its commitment to fairness. I'm sure Jonas (Sison) is (being) treated fairly," Gonzales told reporters.

A Dutch court on Friday ordered Sison to be detained at the Scheveningen Penitentiary Facility for two more weeks as prosecutors could investigate charges against him.

After the hearing, Sison was detained "at the very cell where Hillarion was confined and died while in prison," according to Capulong, quoting Sison's European lawyers.

Yugoslavia strongman Slobodan Milosevic was found dead in his cell on March 11, 2006, four years into his war crimes trial.

Until his arrest, Sison has been directing fighting to get himself and the CPP-National Democratic Front of the Philippines delisted from the European Union's terror list.

"He is held in solitary confinement and presently incommunicado," Capulong said.

Sison, who is suffering from a heart ailment, was also prohibited from receiving "maintenance medicine" from his wife Julie and allowed only to obtain medicine prescribed by the penitentiary doctor, according to Capulong. With a report from AFP

# 'I hope Sison is finally . . .

From page A1

Jan. 23, 2005, in a Japanese restaurant, also in Quezon City.

The CPP has claimed responsibility for both killings, saying Tabara and Entanar were engaged in "criminal and counter-revolutionary activities."

## Ideological differences

Tabara and Entanar were erstwhile top communist rebel leaders who broke away from the CPP-NPA in 1992 over ideological differences with Sison.

Tabara formed the NPA-ABB in 1998 and entered into a peace agreement with the government under the administration of President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Tabara's widow said her husband, Ekstamar and many of their comrades became disillusioned with the dogmatic approach of Sison that saw violence as an option for change.

She said she was aware that the day she and her husband, and many of their other comrades, left the CPP-NPA, their lives were all in danger.

In fact, she said, she knew that her life remained in danger and that she had been taking security precautions against NPA hit men.

The widow said she was overjoyed to hear that Sison had finally been arrested because it brought a glimmer of hope that she would attain justice for her husband.

"Sison has been mainly responsible for ordering the elimination of those who have opposed his leadership," she said.

The widow said it was also "hypocritical for the CPP-NPA to invoke human rights violations, when they have actively violated and failed to respect the basic rights of others."

AT THE TOP.

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# Bar . . .

From page A1

Many gave up part of their usual fun, foregoing movies and mulling to read up on the law in preparation for the annual bar exam, which began yesterday. The exam is to be held on the four Sundays of September.

In an attempt to ease the tension, schoolmates, families and friends provided all kinds of support, including cheering for the examinees.

The tension spread to motorists. One frustrated jeepney driver commented that he would give up his job if the traffic was as heavy as it was early yesterday morning on the first day of the exam.

A portion of Taft Avenue, where De La Salle University, venue of the exams, is located, was closed to traffic, as a result, vehicular flow in other portions of the road and nearby streets were snarled.

Nathalie Abad, an Ateneo School of Law graduate, told the Inquirer that she had to eat lunch on trips to the mall, meetings with friends and even exercise so she could peruse law books and attend review classes, which she started six months earlier.

Twice during her review, she got hospitalized and was advised by doctors to have a complete bed rest for a week. However, she decided to get up after four days because she felt her time would be better spent studying.

"My time would be wasted if I just stayed in bed," she said. She also learned that maintaining good health was essential.

## Billeted at nearby hotel

On the eve of the bar, Abad was overseeing other reviewees at the nearby Century Park hotel, where many of the examinees stayed.

Among those billeted at the hotel were examinees from University of the Philippines, who had bye vouchers or free rounds and de rezanoff for them as part of the "bar operations."

Members of UP Women in Law (Wilaw) bought coffee and snacks, hushed up pupils in mix and law classrooms, gave out reviewers called "tips" and provided pre-dawn wake-up calls for the examinees.

The Wilaw members scrambled to every request, including cooking for 24 hour cafes shops to buy the kind of coffee that an examinee had asked for, and peeling and cutting apples for snacks.

"We don't mind doing things for them. It's part of the support we give them. It's better if they devote their time to reviewing," said one member.

## Goodie bags, grilled bangus

Examinees from UP were also given "goodie bags" containing water, lotion, chocolates, candies and crackers, among others, to take to the exam venue.

Other schools set up tents on Taft Avenue and laid out food and reviewers for their examinees where they take their lunch break.

Some were seen grilling bangus, egg plant and pork chops.

A member of last year's successful bar examinees also came to provide encouragement to their schoolmates.

Ninth placer Timothy Mendoza and other 2006 bar passers visited the examinees at the Century Park on Saturday night.

Alumni and officials of schools like San Beda, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Pangasinan and Far Eastern University and Philippine Law School were also present to cheer on their schoolmates.

Family members came and gave words of encouragement as the examinees lined up to enter De La Salle.

## Drums, confetti gone

The send-off for the examinees was less rambunctious this year. Gone were the booming drums and colorful confetti, which were abundant last year.

The Supreme Court has prohibited streaking, all-school, hunks and "Sex is Sin" activities that disturb the examinees in the perimeter of De La Salle on the day and on the eve of the tests.

Noisy activities are also banned.

A total of 5,466 law graduates applied to take the bar exam, fewer than the 8,345 who took it last year partly because of the new rule barring law graduates from taking the exam if they had failed it five times.

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# OPINION

Your opinion matters

## Learned stupidity

**EDITORIALS**

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER SENSELESS DEATH. IN what is likely another fraternity hazing rite gone deadly wrong, University of the Philippines senior Cris Antonny Mendez was rushed to the hospital a week ago and then abandoned as the emergency room; by then he was already dead. The Sigma Rho fraternity is suspected of encouragement, and by leaders in the Diliman campus have been suspended for 40 days, pending an investigation.

Yet again the specter of campus violence rears its hideous head, and another academic community, devoted to the ideals of character formation and higher education, finds itself beaten to its roots. How can some of its most able students, among the country's most qualified scholars, prove capable of the most brutal, the most barbaric, violence?

Last Friday UP students led by Mendez' schoolmates to the National College of Public Administration and Governance marched around the Diliman campus to protest his senseless death. From the United States, where she is meeting UP alumni, UP President Emerlinda Roman issued a short but resolute statement, vowing to "spare no effort" to bring the guilty to justice.

But Roman also said something we cannot agree with: "This sporadic, irrational violence is not only a hideous blot on the University's record, but a source of great sorrow to individual families," she said. It is irrational, and it is a murderous stain, but in truth campus violence, especially in fraternity initiation rites, is not sporadic at all. It is not irrational/and, and goes on all the time.

It only seems sporadic because not all hazing victims die. But every year, every semester, student organizations with a tradition of violence subject new members to needlessly violent initiation rites. History's lesson is lost on the hope of the future: some of the most intelligent members of the next generation do not understand, or refuse to accept, that the spiral of violence really does exist.

So they paddle an initiate's thighs, they roughhouse a blindfolded recruit, they stub out a burning cigarette on a new member's exposed skin: They do all these, and more, because they are conscious of having survived similarly violent rites themselves. Having been similarly initiated, they have compartmentalized reason and learned to be base, to be brutish—in a word, to be stupid—all over again.

Thus the cycle of violence continues.

## Sweeping statement

THE DECISION OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN TO sentence former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez to a maximum of 30 years in prison for the fictitious purchase of 55,000 broomsticks in 1996 and 1997, is harsh but welcome. Public officials who violate the anti-graft law must be judged strictly and punished severely; that is the only way to stop the crooks.

"A perusal of the prosecution's evidence would readily reveal, even from a layman's perspective, that the local government of Parañaque was seriously prejudiced by the transaction under review," the decision read.

But from a layman's perspective, there is also something mean with the adverse ruling against Marquez and three other city officials. Marquez is a comedian whose political star has fizzled; he does not exactly send ordinary citizens or even fellow officials into spasms of fright. In other words, the "something unfair" that the public senses with the Sandiganbayan's decision has to do with the kind of politician Marquez is: the not-of-power kind.

This is obviously not the fault of the court; in anti-graft cases, the onus always lies with the prosecution—in other words, with the most powerful office of the Ombudsman.

But the same office (to give only one out of many possible examples) had labored mightily over the anomalous Mega Pacific case, and produced a morass of a decision. The Supreme Court found something decidedly amiss with the contract, but the Ombudsman hemmed and hawed and finally declared: It may have been irregular, but no one was liable for it.

Because this perfect crime was associated with officials perceived as close to Malacañang, the oft-embarrassing eyesore fueled public skepticism about justice, Arroyo-administration style.

The line we know all too well, must be applied equally. Unfortunately for both Marquez and the skeptical public, both the administration and the Ombudsman it appointed do not seem to have a broom big enough to sweep all crooks to justice.

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## What 'economic growth' means to the poor

I HAVE SO OBSESSIVE IN NEWSPAPER RE-ports that the economy grew by 7.1 percent (if Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto is telling the truth) that I went to the window and shouted the good news for all the world to hear. One of those who heard me was my squatter neighbor.

"What does it mean?" he asked in Filipino.

"It means," I said, "that the GDP grew by 7.1 percent, the biggest growth in 20 years."

"What's GDP?" my neighbor asked.

"Gross Domestic Product," I explained.

"What's that?" he asked again.

"That's the amount of goods and services produced by the country in a given time," I explained.

"I still don't understand," he said.

"Goods," I explained like a teacher, "are the things that our business grow and harvested, like the clothes that our workers manufactured in the factories, and thousands of other products. Services are those tasks done by our workers, like seamen, barbers, drivers, hairdressers, tailors, etc. They all have values and a government agency estimates how well adds them all up and comes up with the GDP."

"I see," said my neighbor. "But who verifies the estimates? How sure are we that the figures are correct?"

"NSO, where the government says there are the figures, they must be correct, don't you think so?"

"I don't think so. They are just numbers. It's so easy to change them or even invent the figures."

"Are you saying that the government is lying?" I asked, shocked.

"I am not saying that the government is lying. What I am saying is that how can we be sure that the numbers are correct. It could be deliberately lying or simply an honest mistake in addition, figures, subtraction, multiplication."

"But they must have made long and careful computations," I said.

"There is must be the errors. It is very hard to believe the optimistic figures. If the economy grew by that much why am I still jobless like me still poor? Why can't I get a job? Why don't I have a house of my own?"

"That can't you are those new houses over there?" I said pointing. "They have jobs."

"Those people are OFWs. They earned what they have in other countries, not here."

"Why don't you work abroad then?" I asked.

"Why do Filipinos have to go abroad to get jobs?" he protested. "Why can't we have jobs in our own country?"

"Because we don't have enough jobs in our own country," I replied.

"When good is a 7.1 percent growth then, if it does not provide more jobs for us jobless? What good is a no-jobless' labor economy if it does not put food on our table?"

"Well, it makes the investors and businesses earn more."

"Businessmen earn more, yes, but aren't they the rich ones already? Do our economic growth only makes the rich richer and us more poorer."

"But can't you see, when the businessmen earn more they can hire more people and therefore provide jobs."

"Businessmen are the rich!" my neighbor acted plaintively. "I have been looking for a job, any job, for so long I must have worn out a dozen sandals."

"Stop complaining and look more more," I said, getting beginning to get irritated. "You must find work by yourself."

"I'm not the only one who can't find a job. There are millions of others like me. They are all looking but can't find any."

"Why don't you apply for work abroad."

"I don't you think I can't? I envy those Ilong-ging about the good life abroad. When my neighbors come for a visit home their manner brought home by their husbands, my heart bleeds."

"So why don't you go on a vacation?"

"I did. Five only once, last year."

"Are what happened?"

"I was asked to pay on many dowries applications, visa fee, processing fee, etc. The recruiter keeps asking for more and more fees my father sold my carabao and farm in the province to pay for the fees. Never mind, Tatang," I told him. "When I earn earning, we'll get it all back and in double."

"So why are you still here?" I asked. "Why aren't you working abroad?"

"Because my recruiter has disappeared."

"I'm sorry to hear that," I said. "You met two unlucky times. What happened to the recruiter?"

"He went to another province. My father sold his house to pay for the new set of fees. This time I got as far as the airport."

"What happened?"

"I wasn't able to even set foot on the plane."

"Why?"

"All my papers were faked."

"So what did you do?"

"I went to the Department of Labor to complain."

"And what did they do there?"

"They took my statement, shaking their heads and studying their coupons, and told me to go home and they will have the recruiter arrested."

"So they arrested him?"

"No."

"Did?"

"Why not?"

"They said they couldn't find him."

"And that's the end of it?"

"That's the end of it. That's also the end of our farm, house and carabao. My Tatang was furious."

"Oh God, I'm sorry to hear that. Never mind, I'm sure he can make him. "With the growth in the economy maybe you will get a job and you will get it all back."

"When? When I'm already dead?"

## As I See It

*Neal H. Cruz*

## Justice

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Gonzalo de Quiroz*

GMA IS SCEPTIC: "IT'S A GIANT STEP TOWARD peace, a victory for justice and the rule of law," Ombudsman Gonzalez is beaming and cannot contain his excitement.

They are celebrating of course in the arrest and detention in the Netherlands of Jose Maria Sison, officially a "consultant of the NDF," unofficially still its leader, spiritual or otherwise. A statement of the Public Prosecutor's Office in The Hague said: crowds "down was outrageous" of groups of Filipinos in the Netherlands to protest the former political associates in the Philippines, Romulo Kintanar and Armyn Tabora."

I agree heartily with Ebdy and Gonzalez statements. It is to note that Sison has committed those crimes...and there are witnesses aplenty, not the least of those the widows of the dead, to testify to—then his arrest is indeed a giant step toward peace, a victory for justice and the rule of law. Then there is no need every occasion, from the perspective of freedom, human rights, and all that democracy entails to cared, as he very excited about it.

Frankly, I don't understand what people are doing marching to the streets, hanging banks with fully dressed and crucifixion-wielding cigs, to protest Sison's arrest. Their complaint apparently is that the arrest was the product of assistance between the Philippine and Dutch governments. You guess that is so, what of it? I myself have gotten four jobs from friends—we've become fast mates in the act of gallows humor—saying a wise really Manny Pacquiao who practiced blacks of drinks among friends the unforgettable crime of dissing with Ate Glo. It's the democratic response of every Filipino public official who is accused of a crime to use the occasion to "politicize" to "politicize" the freaking what? If it's true, who the hell interfered in international?

Lady Justice certainly doesn't. While at this, you must really have gotten cynical. If not completely hurt, to imagine that if justice in this country is a natural homage to political expediency. It must be so to other countries. Well, other countries will have a better reason than dispersant justice, other countries will be-

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# The Mexican amparo

**SOUNDING BOARD**

*Fr. Joaquín G. Bernas, S.J.*

GENERAL BAR EXAMINATIONS QUESTION FIRST

Answer to the Bar Examination Question on the Political Law was: "What is a writ of amparo?" There was a lot of heart wrenching among the examinees upon seeing the question. Almost nobody knew anything about the amparo or had ever heard about it. But how the writ of amparo has become a hot question for bar examinees and perhaps a hot question for the Bar Examinations after this year.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno has shown himself to be passionately committed to the protection of human rights. Upon his ascension to the chief stewardship the government, he has wasted no time piloting the passage of the writ of amparo to fill the gaps in the matrix of protection offered by current law and jurisprudence. For this purpose I have written about the Mexican amparo and Justice and Chief Justice Puno has shown himself to be passionately committed to the protection of human rights. Upon his ascension to the chief stewardship the government, he has wasted no time piloting the passage of the writ of amparo to fill the gaps in the matrix of protection offered by current law and jurisprudence. For this purpose I have written about the Mexican amparo and Justice Jesus and Chief Justice Puno has shown himself to be passionately committed to the protection of human rights. Upon his ascension to the chief stewardship the government, he has wasted no time piloting the passage of the writ of amparo to fill the gaps in the matrix of protection offered by current law and jurisprudence. For this purpose I have written about the Mexican amparo and Justice

# God does not compromise

LETTERS

MY BEING A CATHOLIC, TAGOLOG PHILIPPINE and the unworthy kind, impelled (the little conscience) me, Patricia Evangelista's column or sex education, condoms and extra-marital sex. (Inquirer, 8/16/05)

Her population growth is alarming, no question about that. But we can address the problem in a dignified and sacred way. To pander to the Filipino's sexual excesses would be to defame him—few as he already is with his perceived penchant for corruption. I call devout of a Filipino who, despite being poor, remains humanistic and responsible.

We just commemorated Martin Luther's 500th death anniversary but country of choice had much more serious population problems than the Philippines. But India is on the brink of becoming an economic power even though it did not resort to the "plastic device" as an instrument of national policy.

Her country can well be like India. Women's rights advocates may dismiss this proposition as impossible. But with God, everything is possible.

I vehemently disagree with Evangelista that "(t)o preach abstinence in a vacuum is not only ineffective, it is irresponsible." Abstinence had side, true, but he also has a good side. Extra-marital indiscretion has been with us since time immemorial and is likely to stay with us. But we have righteousness, discipline and self-control then our sinners become great, but definitely less because of licentiousness.

The assertion that Catholic influence has shelved the congressional initiative for sex education may not be true factual. There is no Catholic vote, period. And the lawmaker stand for or against a legislative measure because he or she was Catholic.

To be sure, a woman does not have absolute sovereignty over her body. To quote from the third chapter of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you (whom you have from God) and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body."

Is there a eye popsik for contraception?

For me, it is hard.

Is sensible, illicit relationships have stimulated a series of sin: harassments, shame and scandal. Consequences have been ruinous and, in some, lose existence, beyond repair. A law preventing the use of the condom will not impress me for, let alone our morals. Are popsik sun-or-wa Dic.

Evangelista appears to have intended a laundry use only for her readers but also for God. Answering to her, "In a situation where the voice from above clashes against the voice of the people, even God has to learn how to compromise."

Sodom and Gomorrah came to mind. So did the earthquakes in 1990, the Mount Pinatubo eruption, the flash floods in Ormoc, Guinsaugon, Ilocandia, Baragas, etc.

As far as I know my God, the door not compromise. As a skeptic in Bible history, God will use experience to man's weaknesses, sin and misadventures. Even if he forgives.

—EFREN C. GARAS,
Ilianala St., Tabaoan Village,
Pantabangan City

# DoE advised: Beware of the nuclear option

A FEW DAYS AGO, CDR. ROGELIO BENTE, newly appointed energy secretary, made an announcement: He was open to the nuclear option. With the looming shortage in energy supply, his office would study the possibility of using nuclear power.

This innovative approach was immediately confirmed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Then the Arroyo administration right away created a task-standing team policy adopted by the government of President Gerazon Aquino, monitored and supported by the Ramos and Estrada administrations. It will be recalled that, following Edsa 1 and preponderant public opinion, Aquino mothballed the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

As Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, from 1986 to 1992, I received congratulations from foreign ambassadors and delegations on that decision of the Aquino administration.

Nuclear power is not cheap. It is not clean either. It is the most dangerous form of energy ever harnessed by man. Nuclear wastes are radioactive or toxic for generations. The primordial concern of the international community, therefore, is: Where do nuclear wastes safely meet their ultimate sources—deep in the bowels of the earth, under fairly stable mountains, beneath the ocean floor, or in outer space, preferably orbiting in the atmosphere?

Unless and until the Arroyo administration has developed a formula for fool-proof storage of nuclear wastes, we are not ready for nuclear power. As a matter of fact, several fifty-blow ad, the Philippines has other sources of energy—renewable and clean, like solar, hydro, wind, waves.

And we understand that there is, or per-sists, sufficient energy for the country. The independent power producers during the term of President Fidel Ramos initiated the program. Of course, it is the system of power lines which are grossly inefficient, inadequate or antiquated. It is time that the Arroyo administration addressed this anomaly.

—ALEJANDRO A. LOVEL,
ambassador (ret.),
alavina1@hotmail.fm

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# UP-ASP commissioned to lower Huluga's value

THE GALAXAN DE ORO CITY HISTORICAL and Cultural Commission (HECCOM) is composed of people chosen by former Mayor Vicente T. Emano, who is now vice mayor. So-mato pelt is no pioneer Emano.

One organization, the Heritage Conservation Advocates (HCA), issued a manifesto at present against Emano in 2004 when he was still planning to destroy the Huluga archaeological site. HECCOM was silent, it was there' person when Emano ordered Huluga to be razed.

This year, HCA filed a case against Emano and his contractor DLC Builders Inc. This year, HCA told the public about the quarrying and treasure hunting in Huluga. We had a meeting with the town mayor, Constantino Acosta, who called us "barbarians." He is for heritage preservation. HECCOM has only sound proposals.

Under pressure, Emano and HECCOM commissioned the University of the Philippines-Archaeological Studies Program (UP-ASP) in 2004 to produce a report that would attempt to determine the archaeological value of Huluga. The goal is summed by three major foci:

First, UP-ASP violated the archaeological code of ethics by not consulting local historians, archaeologists, anthropologists and the archaeologist Dr. Erlinda Burton, who used to work with the famous British-Kenyan archaeologist Louis S.B. Leakey. UP-ASP didn't even consult the people who claimed ownership of the land it researched.

Second, UP-ASP ignored a "midden" known as UP-RW and the National Museum since 2003. A midden is an ancient garbage site, extremely critical in archaeological study. UP-ASP also ignored the fossils and artifacts found on Huluga as late by HCA in 2003, such as the tubular bamboo bead, which has a historical museum accession number of S-1991-03-464. For a detailed description of the latter, read it "Huluga marks archaeology" in Google. My article is in mindanews.com.

Third, UP-ASP made a confusing conclusion when it declared Huluga "a habitation site, but, unlikely a settlement site." These terms are synonymous as archaeology terms. Say so to check www.tolvinia-archdutch.com by archaeologists Ingrao and registered professional archaeologist Dr. Barbara Ann Kipfer.

Instead of filing a case against UP-ASP for doing shoddy and unethical work, much detrimental to the people of the Philippines, HECCOM keeps repeating the UP-ASP gobbledygook like a broken record.

—GLORY T. GUEVARA,
Heritage Conservation Advocates,
chanie@bagus.com

# Corrupt anti-graft units

"BIG TIME START ON THE BIRT" AND "Searching to get's' where's big fish"—front page news stories of the inquirer last Aug. 1 and 2.

Even without reading completely the news items, I found the headlines perfectly correct, absolutely accurate, and timely. But the complacency of the usual graft measures in the country notwithstanding government officials' claims to the contrary.

It is one true that there is less graft and corruption in the Philippines because even—offices (e.g., the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit) tasked to action the problem are infested with corrupt officials and personnel. These supposed independent constitutional offices are actually dens of corruption.

If there is no evidence to purport corruptions in state offices, numerous public reports about corruption should make for strong circumstantial evidence, aside from its actual pieces of evidence in my possession.

—LEONARDO CRISPAL,
114-E Elisa, Bacoor, Cavite

# An incredible charge

OF THE MANY CRIMES THE ARROYO administration ascribes to Jose Ma. Sison, it has chosen the most incredible to shape the Dutch, it requires extraordinary credulity to believe that Sison ordered the killing of several persons in Lodz while he was imprisoned in Metro Manila by the Marcos dictatorship.

Why is this case raised only now, more than two decades after the alleged incident? Is it to divert attention from the deepening legitimacy crisis of the Arroyo regime?

—FRANCISCO NEMENZO,
former president,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

Across the NATION

# Japan firms demand ₱500M from BCDA

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—A JAPANESE consortium has continued to press payment of ₱500 million from the Bases Conversion Development Authority for its work on the 44-km Paniqui-Tarlac side of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway even as audits showed defects on those parts of the project.

The financial claims by the Hanshin Expressway Japan Steel-Joint Venture (HJJV) have not been paid because these are still the subject of an arbitration case between the BCDA and HJJV. BCDA president Narciso Abaya told the Inquirer on Saturday.

HJJV is seeking ₱600 million for "acceleration cost," ₱200 million for pending claims, and ₱100 million for variation and change order as of May 2007, a copy of a letter by HJJV project manager Kenji Gotsuo to Abaya and BCDA executive vice president Jose Mari Luis showed.

The Inquirer obtained the letter, received by the BCDA on June 15, from the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon (ADCL), a multisectoral watchdog monitoring the SCTEx.

Built on a ₱13.06-billion loan from the Japanese government, and 9% billion from the BCDA, this highway connecting the western boundary of Central Luzon to the Subic and Clark freeports and the Luzon Industrial Park, making the seaport and the two airports there accessible by just an hour.

The link was made in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's vision to transform the two freeports into "Southeast Asia's twin logistics hub."

Economist Bernardo Villegas said the SCTEx boosted Central Luzon's chance as a "little Ohio."

But the construction of the SCTEx has been snagged by delays, with Japanese contractors complaining of late access to project sites.

The Kajima-Dinopacific-JFE Engineering and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. Joint Venture (KDJMC), the Japanese contractor on the 59-km Subic-Paniqui section, was given a four-month extension up to March 2008 to catch up with works that were nearly 60 percent complete as of Aug. 31.

Abaya said the BCDA board was not keen on paying the acceleration cost demanded by HJJV because the project engineer has found this to be "unacceptable and unwarranted."

"The reason is very simple. How can [HJJV] claim acceleration [cost] when it is late? It said it mobilized additional machines and personnel but these should not be charged to the BCDA because it is their fault that there is delay [slippage] delay [," Abaya said.

The acceleration cost is not among the items stated in HJJV's original ₱6.5-billion contract, according to an Inquirer source involved in public and Clark projects.

Payments for the two items are not coming soon until HJJV has submitted documents supporting the claims for ₱500 million.

"Our consultants have no basis yet to validate and validate [the claims]," Abaya said.

Kimura declined to confirm the ₱500 million "request for entitlement of pending payment" when interviewed after BCDA officials gave Pampanga officials and ADCL members a project briefing on Saturday.

In his letter, however, he said the "costs suffered by us for the above acceleration measures should be compensated appropriately."

"To recover the delay caused by the factors beyond the contractor's responsibility, the contractor has been required to work with nearly double work force in equipment and limited power to order to maintain [this] same productivity even in [the] rainy season as [the] dry season," he said.

**STRONG RAINS** erode these portions of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway in Clark. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

### 'Late site possession'

In the same letter, he attributed the delay to "late site possession" of the spur road connected to the North Luzon Expressway, on the intersection by the Mabalacat (Pampanga) and Concepcion (Tarlac) local governments, and to right-of-way problems arising from the agrarian and labor disputes in the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

Kimura said the "late approval" of the BCDA on the land or filling materials to be used have agitated to the labor trapped with moments soil, caused a "big delay" on the schedule.

"In the original schedule, we had expected to start this work from November 2006 as approved by the engineer. However, we could make a full paving activity only after October 2006. We entirely had lost one dry season," Kimura said.

Lawyer Regina Ildefonso Lapid, head of the SCTEx contracts management department, said HJJV was ordered to redo a 0.5-meter span on the Bataan Highway in Clark because that part was "short of the required thickness."

# Barangay execs on 3rd terms can't run in polls

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

NEGROS CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF the Interior and Local Government in Negros Occidental reminded that barangay officials who are serving their third and last terms are no longer eligible to run for the same posts in October.

The clarification was issued by the DILG here amid queries by incumbent barangay officials serving their last terms if they are covered by the three-term prohibition.

"Elective barangay officials are covered by the three-term limit like the elective provincial, city and municipal officials," said DILG-Negros provincial officer Efraim Joseph Calumio.

He said the term limit of barangay chairmen and council members was set under Section 2 of Republic Act 9164 which was passed by Congress in 2002. The law refers to the supposed elections of barangay and SK officials on this year but did not push through due to budgetary constraints, which resulted to the extension of the terms of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials.

The Commission on Elections has set on Oct. 29 this year the conduct of the barangay and SK elections.

With the clarification, Calumio said officials now serving their last term should no longer entertain the thought of filing their certificates of candidacy for the posts they were about to vacate.

However, three-consistent officials covered by the prohibition could still run if they seek a different position, said Tadeleon City spokesperson officer Sebastian Peregrino.

Peregrino said 43 of the 130 barangay chairpersons in Tadeleon are serving their last terms.


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# Tubbataha seeks exclusion from exploration

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Officials of the world-famous sea sanctuary, Tubbataha Reefs Natural Marine Park, yesterday asked the Department of Energy to exclude over 15,000 hectares of its protected waters from oil and gas explorations.

Angelique Songco, park manager, said the management board approved a resolution asking the DOE to exercise the overlapping boundaries of the country's largest marine park and Service Contract 61, which it awarded to Burgundy Global Exploration Corp. in July 2006.

"We are very much concerned that an important area covered by the expanded Tubbataha park overlaps with an oil and gas concession, which means seismic exploration activities can and will affect marine life inside the park," Songco told the Inquirer.

The Tubbataha Reefs, a pair of giant atolls rearing with marine life in the middle of the Sulu Sea, was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site as it represents a unique example of pristine atoll reef, with a very high diversity of fish. It was expanded as a protected area on Aug. 23, 2006, under Presidential Proclamation No. 1126.

Now covering a total area of 96,828 hectares, the park is located 92 nautical miles southeast of this city.

Songco said the Arnie Bearby Reefs on the outer edge of the park was also covered under SC 61.

The reef is "an important source and sink area of the park," said Dr. Jerry Apales, a marine mammal specialist and researcher of the Tubbataha Management Office. "It is a very productive area for marine life and is very sensitive to disturbances caused by seismic explorations due to the presence of cetacean species which are sensitive to sonic."

Apales proposed the establishment of a buffer area of at least 10 nautical miles around the Arnie Bearby.

"Seismic explorations caused by compressed air fired from the water surface during exploration activities can cause a lot of damage to Arnie Bearby which is now just recovering since it was acquired by the park in 2006," he added.

SC 61 is one of the 28 petroleum service contracts awarded by the DOE to exploration companies. In a presentation to the provincial board on the status of these service contracts last month, the department noted that Burgundy Global was planning to conduct seismic surveys there next year.

**NPA CAMP SEIZED IN QUEZON**
Scout Rangers loom the Communist Bagumbuhay camp found after seizing a New People's Army camp in Sitio Madarik, Barangay University, General Nakar, Quezon. The camp has 18 huts, six guard posts, a firing range and a basketball court.

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# Tayabas Bay fishers salvage century-old logs, artifacts

LUCENA CITY—TAYABAS BAY FISHERMEN in the Mauban Peninsula area are busy not with business as usual but with the retrieval of artifacts, which include different sizes of logs believed to be more than 100 years old, from an ancient shipwreck.

Zenaida Bernal, marine program officer of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, said the process of retrieving old and underestimated species and with different sizes were being sold to buyers for P20 to P40 per board foot.

"We were told that some of the old but still usable logs are 20 meters long," Bernal said.

Using police reports, she said the authorities had already intercepted two shiploads of century-old logs that were about to be smuggled out of the province to be sold in marine shops in Manila.

Pieces of antique logs command a premium price from relic-collectors.

The salvaging of old logs has been going in the ports of Tayabas Bay-hosting towns, Padre Burgos, General Luna and Pitogo towns, according to Bernal.

She said they were informed by Barangay Kabilauan officials in five-seven days that the retrieval of ancient logs had been going on for the past four months.

"However, one of the fishermen volunteered the information that three years ago, his fishing net got stuck at the bottom of the sea. When he tried to retrieve it, he found out that the net was entangled in a big ship anchor lying below and had taken a big piece of wood," Bernal said.

"The fishermen advised us to see that he sold the ancient anchor for an unspecified amount," she said.

The recovery of ancient logs at the bottom of the sea was being carried by divers.

Armed with iron bars, the fishermen search for logs or whatever valuable items in the seabed, especially during low tide by sticking the bar in the muddy floor.

Once they hit solid mass, digging commences.

The diggers breathe through plastic pipes from an oil compressor.

The fishermen are armed and drunk, which they use for P120-P200 a day, as finance for the salvaging of the logs, said Bernal.

Some of the diggers, according to her, were fortunate to salvage ancient China wares and jars in the seas fronting Quezon town.

"The government should look into the ongoing salvaging of ancient relics. They must be preserved by competent people. The artifacts are part of the country's rich culture," she said.

In 2004, a sunken wreck believed to be from the 12th century was discovered 30 meters deep on a muddy bottom in the sea, two fronting Quezon.

The wreck reportedly yielded pieces of broken jars, gold and silver utensils.

The divers theorized that the vessel sank on its way back to China after trading with the people of Quezon, which used to be called Kalilayan.

Quezon local officials boasted that their town could be the oldest in the country.

They claimed that the town is now 600 years old, having been established in 1521, the same year that Ferdinand Magellan discovered the Philippines. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

# Foreign mining firms applying for exploration in Negros Oriental

DUMAGUETE CITY—SEVERAL FOREIGN firms have shown interest in conducting mining explorations in Negros Oriental, according to provincial legal officer Ernesto Pergole.

Mining firms from Australia, Singapore and China have reportedly applied for a permit to conduct explorations in Siaton, a town about 130 kilometers south of here, he said.

Those mining companies, which he declined to identify, would like to look into the gold and copper deposits in Siaton.

Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Charlie Fabre affirmed that a number of foreign companies have filed for exploration permits before the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) regional office based in Cebu.

Pergole said it was possible that other mining firms would also become interested in doing explorations in the towns of Amlan, San Jose, Dauin, Siaton and Manjuyod because these localities have deposits of iron ore, sulfur and manganese.

Gov. Emilio Macias II said he would not object to any exploration for as long as these firms would address environmental protection issues.

Pergole noted that mining firms removed their interests in the Philippines because of the earlier decision of the Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995 and the willingness of the Arroyo administration to allow these firms to invest in the country.

The growing demand in the world market of minerals from China and other countries also has fueled the interest of mining firms to look for potential mining sites in the Philippines, Pergole said.

*Benjo S. Benavidez, Inquirer Visayas*

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ONE OF THE four winning lottery tickets was sold at this store in the southern town of Villas, New Jersey. AP

# 4 tickets in 4 states win $330-M jackpot

From page A1

The odds that any ticket would match all five numbers—8, 18, 22, 40 and 44—and the Mega ball number—13—drawn on Friday night were one in 176 million.

If estimates of the jackpot hold true, it would be the fourth largest in the lottery's history. A $363 million jackpot was awarded in 2000 and two other $331 million in 2002. In March, two winners shared the record $390-million Mega Millions jackpot.

According to preliminary calculations, each winning ticket in the latest lottery would be worth about $82 million if the prize were taken in 26 annual payments. If taken in one lump-sum payment, the payout would be $46,615,388.

Maryland lottery officials delivered a large for $330 million check to Walther Lajoie on Saturday and Michael Leggett, one of owners Christine and John Dimeler, posed with it for pictures.

"Business was fantastic" as people bought tickets for Friday's drawing, according to Leggett. He, his girlfriend and his parents sold 675 tickets on Friday, up from an average of about 200.

State Lottery Director Buddy Roogow said relatives bought the winning ticket at Walther Lajoies purchased five quick pick tickets, in which the numbers are automatically selected by computer, costing a total of $5.

"You have a lower chance of being killed lightning at the same place and time every day for a week" than winning a Mega Millions, Roogow said.

For selling the winning ticket, Walther Lajoies will receive a $25,000 commission.

Virginia's winning ticket was sold at Dunky Corner Food and Gas in Burlington, a small, close-knit town.

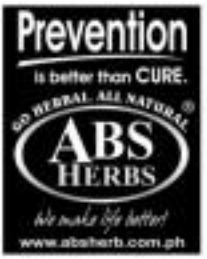
"Everyone is excited," Dunky Corner owner Evelyn Tobin said by telephone. "A lot of people up here don't have a whole lot of money, so I hope it's somebody who can use it and enjoy it".

New Jersey's winning ticket was sold at Bird's Villas Market in the southern town of Villas. "We're just so disbelief right now," said Mark Shimizu, son of the market's owners.

The winning ticket from Texas was sold at a Target store in Houston.

In addition to the grand prize winners, 26 players matched all five numbers but not the Mega Ball number. They will receive second prizes of $250,000 each.

Mega Millions tickets are also sold in California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Washington. AP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Globally, optimal breastfeeding can prevent 1.3 million child deaths.

[1]The Lancet is the world's leading independent medical journal. Founded 180 years ago, The Lancet is an authoritative voice in global medicine. "Our commitment to international health' ensures first research and analysis from all regions of the world is widely covered" (www.thelancet.com/about).

**Compared to breastfed children, formula-fed children have increased risks for sickness, death and lower IQ.**

Compared to breastfed babies, formula-fed babies have:

- a five-fold risk of diarrhoea[2] and 16.7-fold risk of pneumonia[3] – two of the main causes of deaths among Filipino children
- 40-50% increased risk of developing asthma and wheeze[4]
- IQ 3-7 points lower, up to adulthood[5]

Even in developed countries with good hygiene and clean water, breastfed babies had[6]:

- 50% reduction of acute ear infection
- 64% reduction in the risks of non-specific gastroenteritis
- 72% reduction in the risk of hospitalization due to lower respiratory tract diseases

[2] Popkin BM et al. Breastfeeding and diarrheal morbidity. Pediatrics. 1990 Dec; 86(5): 874-82.

[3] Leon-Cava N. Quantifying the benefits of breastfeeding: A summary of the evidence. Pan American Health Organization. 2002. Edmond KM, Zandoh C, Quigley MA, Pediatrics. 2006; 117: 380-384. Oesar JA, Victora CG, Barros FC et al. Impact of breastfeeding on admission for pneumonia during postneonatal period in Brazil: Nested case-control study. British Medical Journal 1999; 318:1316-20.

[4] Dell S, To T. Breastfeeding and asthma in young children. Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine 2001;155:1261-1265; and, Oddy WH et al. Maternal asthma, infant feeding, and the risk for asthma in childhood. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. 2002;110:65-67.

[5] WHO. Evidence on the long-term effects of breastfeeding: systematic reviews and meta-analysis. 2007.

[6] Tufts New England Medical Center Evidence-Based Practice Center. 2007.

[1] National Statistics Office (Philippines) and ORC Macro. 2004. National Demographic and Health Survey 2003.

[2] WHO. International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. 1981.

Department of Health | World Health Organization | United Nations Children's Fund

# No climate change targets at Apec–Howard

From page A1

ing circulated at this week's Apec meeting in Sydney calls on members to voluntarily make "measurable and verifiable contributions in meeting shared global goals," according to a draft obtained by environmental group Greenpeace and sent by The Associated Press.

"What I would like to see the Apec meeting in Sydney do is develop a consensus on the post-Kyoto international framework that we must participate by all members," Howard said, adding that each member country should not be bound by the same restrictions.

"You cannot expect a country like China to accept precisely the same constraints or discipline as a country like Germany or the United Kingdom," he said. "Their circumstances are at vastly different stages of development, and that has always been the fundamental weakness of the Kyoto approach."

### $57.1-M pledge

The joint ministers also pledged US$57.1 million to global climate change efforts, including US$12.8 million to a forestry management program backed by China.

Howard's climate change initiative has already drawn protests from environmentalists who say it is an empty strategy designed to protect Australia's coal export industry. Police arrested 11 Greenpeace activists yesterday for painting anti-Apec slogans on a coal ship in the port of Newcastle, 150 kilometers north of Sydney.

Critics also claim that Howard, a former climate change skeptic who is facing a tough reelection campaign, has placed the issue on Apec's agenda to assuage voters' concerns about his environmental credentials. The election will likely be later this year.

A PLAC activist in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation host is displayed at the Apec venue in Sydney. AFP/FILE

The growing Apec region, which includes the world's three biggest emitters of greenhouse gases—China, the United States and Russia—accounts for roughly half of global trade and 56 percent of the world economy.

To support his initiative, Howard released a report by a government research body, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, saying Apec economies accounted for 56 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2004. That figure would be 130 percent higher by 2030 if members take no action to cut them, the report said.

### More efficient

The report highlighted the potential of new and more efficient technologies to combat climate change, ideas Howard has said should be given more attention.

Separately, senior Apec officials began parsing the finishing touches on a declaration on trade and other issues, which will be passed on to government ministers for approval in the middle of the week.

The officials first discussed how to bolster the faltering Doha round of global trade talks, and were then expected to discuss existing barriers to trade and progress for a region-wide free-trade agreement, the draft showed.

This year's summit will take place Sept. 8-9 at the Sydney Opera House, overlooking the city's iconic harbor, amid threats of terrorism and violent protests.

### 'Fortress Sydney'

A massive steel and concrete wall atop around key sections of Australia's largest city—called "Fortress Sydney"—as senior officials put the final touches to preparations for the 21-member Apec summit.

The wall, which snakes through Sydney's financial center and around barbed-wire-covered fences, is designed to keep protesters at bay and block potential car or truck bombings.

Howard acknowledged yesterday that security and terrorism would be discussed in bilateral meetings.

A ranking supporter of the US-led campaign in Iraq, Howard told a news conference that would be the case particularly in his talks with Bush.

### Trilateral summit

Australia, the United States and Japan will hold their first trilateral summit on the sidelines of the Apec talks, when Bush and Howard meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The Saturday morning breakfast meeting is expected to focus on security issues and include discussions on North Korea's nuclear disarmament and China's military buildup.

Howard defended the unprecedented level of security in Sydney, saying: "If people didn't threaten violence they wouldn't be necessary."

Apec group Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United States and Vietnam. —Reports from AP, AFP


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# Choice of costume . . .

From page A1

home in economy with no national dress.

Olympic swimmer, Ledecky (Dip Dept) and Italy with dangling curls went out of the question for the likes of New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The world is also unlikely to see US President George W. Bush or Russian President Vladimir Putin in the blue singlet and shorts ensemble long favored by millions of working Australian men.

**Our answer** is to focus on Australia's farming heritage and incorporate a broad brimmed Akubra hat—with a long, soldier Drizza-bone coat favored by rugged mountain men in movies such as "The Man from Snowy River."

**But how may** obscure the faces of the dignitaries in the all-important summit photograph and the murky brown coats may look rather dull against the backdrop of Sydney Harbor.

**"We really don't have a national costume,"** said Australian fashion blogger Simon Locke.

### Akubra hat, Drizza-bone

"Certainly there's been iconic pieces of clothing associated with Australia over the years. The obvious ones are the Akubra hat, the Drizza-bone and Blundstone boots."

Locke said the importance of Australia's archaeology experts could ensure the president and prime ministers attending the forum wore their own sons impressive headwear.

"Australia should be projecting an image of itself as cool and contemporary," Locke told Agence France-Presse. "So perhaps a pair of Quiet Gliter board shorts."

Prime Minister John Howard, known for occasionally but worryingly walks in an Australian rugby team jersey, is keeping mum about the outfit except to say it will be "distinctly Australian."

### Less elaborate

But sometimes a building that the matching outfit will be less elaborate than last year's traditional Vietnamese ao dai, an elegant calf-length silk tunic associated with the country's imperial past.

One Australian official has already said the budget for the outfits is modest.

Whatever the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders may admit to wear, they can blame former US President Bill Clinton who instigated the practice in Seattle in 1993 after a burst of unseasonably cold weather called for warm clothing.

Since then, leaders have donned everything from bright batik prints in Indonesia, to aviator jackets in Canada to elaborate silk overcoats in South Korea for the group photo. AFP


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# 'Mother Teresa suffered from silence of God'

MOTHER TERESA

Vatican aide

there was some speculation that the letters could lead the pope-there to make her a saint.

"All believers know about the silence of God," Benedict said in unprepared remarks. "Even Mother Teresa, with all her charity and force of faith, suffered from the silence of God."

He said believers sometimes had to understand the silence of God in order to understand the situation of people who do not believe.

Due out on Sept. 6, the book, "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light," is a collection of letters written to colleagues and superiors over 66 years.

The editor, Missionaries, who dedicated her life to poor, sick and dying in India, died in 1997 at the age of 87.

Mother Teresa had wrestled all her known destroyed, but the Vatican ordered they be preserved as potential relics of a saint, according to a spokesperson for Ludovica, the UK publishers of the book.

Mother Teresa has been beatified but has not yet been made a saint.

Time magazine, which has first acted

rights, published excerpts on its website last month.

Where the German-born Pope

SS' visited the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz last year, he publicly asked why God was silent when 1.5 million victims, mostly Jews, died there. AFP

# Pope urges youth to save planet Earth

From page A1

crashed cell phone exchanges.

Benedict told the crowd, camped out under umbrellas and tents on a vast, dusty field on the Adriatic coast, that it was up to them to urgently save the planet from destruction that had often ignored "nature's delicate equilibrium."

"Before it's too late, we need to make courageous choices that will restore a strong alliance between man and Earth," Benedict said in his homily. "We need a decisive 'no' to cars for aviation and a strong commitment to reverse those trends that risk making the situation of decay irreversible."

He said water, in particular, was a "precious" resource that needed to be preserved since "it unfortunately becomes common of causing tensions and conflicts if it isn't shared in an equitable and peaceful manner."

Benedict has been on something of a green campaign of late, lamenting just this past week that the environmental impact of recent forest fires in Italy and Greece. During his recent summer vacation in the mountains, he spoke frequently about the importance of nature—God's creation—in rekindling spiritual life.

Ender Benedict, the Vatican has been talking more concrete steps toward greater environmental sustainability. It has joined a reforestation project aimed at offsetting its carbon dioxide emissions, and has also said it will start using photovoltaic cells on the roof of its main audiences to convert sunlight into electricity.

An estimated 500,000 people turned out for Benedict's Mass. Most of the young pilgrims spent the night camped out on tarps and tents on the field down the hill from the Adriatic city of Loreto, home of Italy's most important shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

As dawn rose over Sunday, the field appeared to be a great multicolored mosaic, with participants donning the brightly colored hats provided by organizers to shade them from the blistering sun.

## Crisis in family

On Saturday, Benedict told the young pilgrims he was praying a crisis in traditional family values doesn't become an irremediable failure, urging them to have faith that they can succeed in marriage even though so many others had failed.

"There is no much failure of love all around us," he said. "How many couples don't succeed and separate! How many families end up in pieces! How many young people, even among you, have seen their parents separate and divorce!"

After hearing young people's stories about their broken homes and living on the periphery of society, he assured them that he and the entire Roman Catholic Church were praying "that the crisis that is affecting families today doesn't become an irreversible failure."

Benedict has frequently decried the collapse of family values and has spoken of the need to support "traditional" marriage between man and woman. The Italian bishops conference—which organized the rally—has mounted a major campaign to oppose widespread divorce and oppose proposed Italian legislation giving same-sex couples several legal rights.

The Pope told the crowd to have faith that God would help them, even though they may still themselves how they could succeed in marriage when their friends and families had failed.

## Role of youth

"Do not be afraid," he said, repeating a phrase often used by Pope John Paul II.

As the sun set on the crowd gathered in a field in front of him, Benedict told attendees: "It is the role of youth to change the world."

At the Pope's side was 16-year-old Ronnie Rossi, the pope who survived more than a month in the hands of bandits in the Philippines. Mind opera singer Andrea Bocelli was also in attendance, performing two Marian.

After speaking to the crowd, Benedict went to pray before the shrine of the Virgin Mary, known as the Holy House.

The shrine is a simple stone cottage that Catholic tradition says was the home in Nazareth where Mary grew up and received the annunciation that she would bear Jesus. Legend has it that angels miraculously transported the structure from the Holy Land, where it had come under threat during the turmoil of the Crusades, and brought it to the Loreto area in 1294.

The Loreto meeting is the first of three meetings, taking place annually, sponsored by Italian bishops designed to mobilize Italian Catholic youth. It is also Italy's warm-up for World Youth Day, the Church's major international youth festival, which will be held July 15-20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia.

Benedict is expected to go to Sydney for that gathering. AP

POPE BENEDICT XVI urges an international rally of youths in "change the world" through love and protection the environment. AFP

# RESTORING PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

ANGELO REYES
Justice Secretary

ANTONIO T. LUBANG
Commissioner

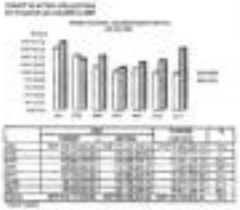
# Forging Ahead... Amidst Challenges

## Bureau of Immigration Celebrates 67th year

"As modernization takes center stage, the BI is poised to face the threefold challenge of being an economic catalyst, an ambassador of goodwill and vanguard against international terrorists/ threats."

## ACR I-CARD PROJECT:
## Shift to customer service orientation nets P348 M

ACR I-Card Project automates the entire process of alien registration and integrates the issuance of various paper-based alien documentations into a microchip-based identification card."



# A one-on-one with Commissioner Libanan

**Question (Q): What is your vision for the Bureau of Immigration?**

Commissioner Marcelino C. Libanan (MCL): My vision is a sovereign Philippines that is a paragon of its heritage, secures its national integrity, promotes unity – faith, harmony, and loyalty – a regime depicted peace and economic prosperity in a just and secure – free society.

Simply this and we also envision a cadre of dedicated public servants who find significance because of their calling quite relevance because of their personal goals, and derive satisfaction from the quality of service that they deliver.

**Q: And what is your mission for the BI?**

MCL: My mission is to administer a dynamic and progressive migration agenda, where nationals are open to new partnerships while aliens are willing to embrace new systems with both improving the advocacy of a just, humane and pro-development society.

**Q: What is your agency's role in the implementation of the Human Security Act?**

MCL: Under the law, BI is mandated to assume a supporting role. As the gatekeeper of the nation, BI shall see to it that only those with noble intentions shall be allowed entry. But some means to guarantee to those with – unintended consequences, we shall make sure that the national integrity is secured. On our migration services are humane, pro-development as well as pro-family. (c) our national development is adequately and responsibly served by our migration policies; and (d) that the Philippines remains to be family of nations is recognized, respected and honored under the internationally – recognized principle of reciprocity.

**Q: What are the key result areas (KRAs) that you would like the BI to pursue under your watch?**

MCL: National Security, Progressive Economy, Sanctity of the family. To pursue these, I shall endeavor to equip the human with the needed wherewithal. This is responsive organizational structure, a motivated work force, systems modernization thru ICT – based operations, advocacy – building and partnership, all geared towards ensuring our national security, furthering global trust for our economy, and upholding the sanctity and dignity of the human family.

**Q: And what is your mission for the BI?**

MCL: My mission is to administer a dynamic and progressive migration agenda, where nationals are open to new partnerships while aliens are willing to embrace new systems with both improving the advocacy of a just, humane and pro-development society.

**Q: What will it take to achieve these Vision and Mission?**

MCL: First and foremost, we shall uphold our sovereignty at all times. As such, we shall ensure that (a) our national integrity is secured; (b) our migration services are humane, pro-development as well as pro-family; (c) our national development is adequately and responsibly served by our migration policies; and (d) that the Philippines remains to be family of nations is recognized, respected and honored under the internationally – recognized principle of reciprocity.

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SMART
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Aplus METRO
Editor Rose G. Cipriano

# Suspected hazing victim laid to rest

## Family still waiting for results of NBI probe, says relative

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

ALMOST A WEEK AFTER HIS PALE AND UNRESponsive body was taken to a hospital in Quezon City, Cris Anthony Mendez, a University of the Philippines student believed to have died of hazing injuries, was buried at the public cemetery in Tiaong, Quezon, his hometown, yesterday afternoon.

A crowd of close to 2,000 people, mostly schoolmates and friends who came all the way from 107 Diliman, villagers, local officials and Mendez's family and relatives, attended the funeral of the 20-year-old public administration student.

For each hours, they marched under the scorching heat on the Maharlika Highway as they accompanied the victim in his final resting place.

"Cris' death could be a message from God. The Lord wants us to realize that human life is so precious. Life is full of meaning. Man's life is not measured by the length of time that he stayed here on earth but by how he spent it when he was still alive," Fr. Noel Cabangbang said in his homily.

Cabangbang, the parish priest of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of the World church in Lusacan village, urged the victim's family and friends to "leave everything to God."

"Hopefully, those who committed this crime would be bothered by their conscience," said lawyer Expectacion Bladeo, who represents the Mendez family.

She expressed concern, however, that those involved in his death were apparently orchestrating a cover-up to mislead investigators.

"Now some fat death certificates stated that he died here in Tiaong," Bladeo said.

Mendez was declared dead on arrival at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center by doctors who examined him after he was brought in by Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr. at a few minutes past 1 a.m. last Monday.

Cruz, a PMMC doctor who has not reported for work since then, expressed willingness the other day to talk to the police about what he knows about Mendez's death.

According to the hospital emergency room report obtained by the Inquirer, Mendez was a standing victim. The report took note of the bruises on the back of his arms and thighs.

Top UP officials last week condemned his death and vowed to conduct an investigation into the matter. They also placed under preventive suspension all of those of the Sigma Rho fraternity the group Mendez was believed to have joined before his death.

The victim's family, however, was reportedly skeptical of reports that he died due to hazing.

Barangay chair Pedro Pumaple, a relative, said they were not yet ready to believe that Mendez was a hazing victim.

"We're still having a blank wall as to the true cause of his death. We're still waiting for the results of the initial investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation. The 900 people told us that they would invite some people as the next few days who could help shed some light on the incident," Pumaple told the Inquirer.

Mendez's mother, Cristina, and his younger brother, Ilem, refused to talk to the media.

Meanwhile, officials of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance are considering renaming the college student council office after Mendez.

"We want to honor Cris, who served the NCPAG Student Council," UP NCPAG Dean Alex Brillantes Jr. told the Inquirer.

THE MOTHER of UP student Cris Anthony Mendez is unable to hold back her tears as she says goodbye to him before his burial yesterday at the public cemetery in Tiaong, Quezon. Mendez's white coffin is adorned by the many UP medals he earned over the years (inset).

**TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE AT TANDANG SORA**

Bob, 43, of Quezon City sent this text message to Citizen's Cell: "Tandang Sora Avenue leading to Commonwealth Avenue [Don Mariano Marcos Avenue] has become a traffic nightmare because of jeepney and tricycle drivers who have turned both outer lanes of the road into terminals and pick up points despite numerous No Parking and No Loading/Unloading signs. Worse, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority aides just ignore this root cause of traffic problems. Isn't it obvious?"

### No access to fire trucks

IN BARANGAY Sandang Sora, there are subdivisions that have fenced off their entrance preventing the streets, for one reason or another, to be used by the public. Today, during the raging fire in Mindanao Street, fire trucks would be prevented from responding immediately, not knowing where to pass. Perhaps the Office of the Quezon City Mayor or the City Engineer's Office can find a solution to this problem in accordance with existing ordinances.

JOHNNY TORRECIR JR.
Delta Village, Quezon City

### Flooding on Molina Street

MAGKAISA tayo sa Bahia ang Molina Street sa Pinamalayan para sa mga taon. Bukod sa pagkakaroon ng bagong kalsada, ang mga drainage ay dapat ding ayusin. Bakit ba nagbabaha ang mga kalsada kapag umuulan? Ang mga tubig-ulan ay dapat dumaloy sa mga kanal at hindi sa mga kalsada. Ang mga kanal ay dapat ding linisin upang hindi maging sanhi ng pagbaha.

ANGELO ALCANTARA
Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

### Polluter on wheels

I WOULD like to call the attention of the agency concerned regarding the smoke belcher of a school bus (TWW 301) servicing Mapúa College and Ateneo University students.

JOHNNY ABELLA-BAUTISTA, 37
Caloocan, Caloocan City

### Action please, Mayor Hagan!

ATTENTION, Caloocan Mayor Rey Hagan! Please incorporate attention on Rosalinda Rds. a village full of non-existing because of floods and damaged roads. Action please!

MR. J. ESCRIVANA, Caloocan

### Flooding on Molina Street

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ANGELO ALCANTARA
Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

## 3 hurt in Mandaluyong hardware store fire

By Kristine L. Alave

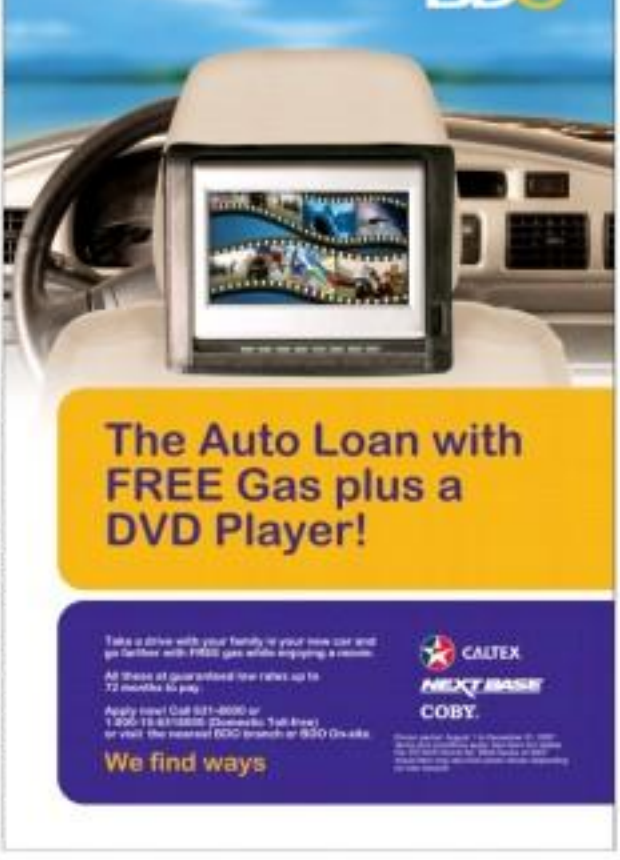
THREE PEOPLE were hurt when a hardware shop in Mandaluyong City burned down yesterday morning. Authorities identified the victims as Ms. Khang, 42, his relative, Raymond Khang, 21 and Andres Arevalo.

Doctors treated the elder Khang for second degree burns. Raymond for smoke inhalation and Arevalo for an injured hand. Two other members of the Khang family were unhurt.

FO2 Marcus Cabico said the fire which hit Sanz Construction and Hardware Supplies on Ilaya Boulevard started at around 3 a.m. The Khang family, which owns the store and lives in the building, said they were awakened by the smell of smoke.

The fire reached the second alarm and was placed under control at 3:40 a.m., Cabico added.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the fire which rapidly spread. Brought out the building. Authorities estimated the damage to property at around P1.5 million.



# Binay backs calls to postpone local polls

## Suggests that mayors appoint barangay, SK officials instead

By DJ Yap

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR Binay yesterday expressed support for a proposal to postpone the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections next month, citing inadequate funds for the conduct of the polls.

The best thing to do now, he said, was to allow the incumbent mayors to simply appoint the barangay and SK chairmen themselves.

"This way, we will be able to ensure cooperation and teamwork among the mayors and the barangay officials," Binay added.

### Cost-cutting measure

According to him, aside from the moves to appoint the barangay leaders would help do away with "too much and unnecessary politics in the grassroots level, as well as save on election expenses, so."

"The growing clamor from local officials and legislators to reset the elections is well-founded and sensible, given the issues raised about inadequate funds and the lack of readiness on the part of the Commission on Elections to conduct the polls so soon after the May elections," Binay said.

But the mayor, who is also president of the United Opposition, cautioned: "However, I hope this move will not be manipulated by administration allies to push their plans for a referendum or charter change."

### Comelec should face bill

Earlier, he also objected to a Comelec resolution requiring local government units to shoulder 25 percent of the expenses for the October elections and insisted that under the law, the Comelec should face the bill.

"Besides, some LGUs are already hard-pressed just meeting their payroll, requirements, so how can they afford to share (part of their) budget for the elections?" Binay said.

### DID YOU KNOW

At 149,500 it opened with only 300 beds, the Philippine General Hospital, which is celebrating its centennial now has a bed capacity of 1,500. One thousand of these are mainly units or for indigents, and the rest are pay and special wards. The hospital occupies 18 hectares of land on Taft Avenue, Manila and has 45 buildings, 19 clinical departments and about 4,000 employees.

*Cyril J. Bonalos*
*Inquirer Research*

Like going from candles to lamps, we are constantly looking for ways to keep evenings bright, so you'll always have a happy ending.

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# S. Korean hostages return home, offer apologies

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA — Nineteen South Korean Christian volunteers held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan for six weeks returned home to an uncomfortable welcome on Sunday, thanking their government for saving them from death.

A senior Taliban leader told Reuters that Seoul had paid $20 million for their release—but the South Korean government denies paying any ransom—although has been criticized intentionally for striking a deal through direct negotiations.

"We want to spread God's love and carry out his wishes," freed hostage Lyu Hyung-ok said after arriving. "All of us returned from being on verge of death and have been given our lives back."

The hostages—heads bowed, looking sombre and some fighting back tears—stood behind Lyu as he made a brief statement at Incheon airport outside Seoul. He stood between himself relatives of the two hostages shot dead by the Taliban.

"Allah is over a big debt to the country and the South Korean people," said Lyu. "Whatever thinking about the trouble we have caused them, it is proper for us to bow deeply and ask for your forgiveness."

The six-week standoff gripped the country, leading thousands to join candlelight vigils.

But many criticized the subsidized the Seoul-based Church that dispatched the group as having a naive world view and for putting their governments in a bind.

Relatives of the country's main Protestant groups and largest Internet portals have been flooded with messages saying the group and church were to blame for ignoring government warnings and for making an ill-advised mission to an obvious danger spot.

The hostages were taken to a hospital to daytime, south of Seoul, where many collapsed into the arms of waiting relatives, who cheered when the group entered a reception room. A few of the group, overcome by emotion, had to be carried out of the room.

The former hostages, mostly women, were then admitted for medical checks and kept away from the media.

Seo Areng-hee was reunited with a son and daughter. "I was given back the two children I had lost. By holding them in my arms, I now know it's real," the smiling father said.

About 1,000 crammed Incheon Church for services on Sunday with a pastor saying it was not right for the government to seek compensation from it for costs incurred in securing the release.

"Immanuel Church is at the center of a war against our will," pastor Park Eun-gy said in a message to parishioners absent the criticisms of its Afghan mission.

The South Korean government said it had agreed to pull out a small contingent of military engineers and medical staff and to end South Korean missionary work in Afghanistan in return for the release of the hostages.

It said there were no other conditions to the deal, although the Taliban had demanded swapping the Koreans for its prisoners.

PARK Hye-young (right), one of the 19 released S. Korean hostages, reunites with her mother west of Seoul, South Korea, on Sept. 2. — Reuters

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Mysterious pig disease spreads through China

BEIJING — A mysterious disease affecting China's pork-rearing industry has spread, and officials have ramped up vaccine output to cope with a "grave" situation, state media reported. More than 251,000 pigs had been infected with the epidemic, known as blue-ear-pig disease, by late August, with 68,000 of them dying, official Xinhua news agency said late Saturday. Experts quoted in the Western media have expressed doubts about the official figures, suspecting the government is trying to keep a lid on a more serious crisis. Xinhua quoted a top official as saying more than 100 million pigs had been immunized, but that control efforts faced severe challenges. AFP

### Bhutto says talks with Musharraf stalled

LONDON/ISLAMABAD — Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Saturday talks on a power sharing deal with President Pervez Musharraf had stalled but she would return to Pakistan within weeks over military agreement. "No understanding has been arrived at," she told a crowded news conference in London about her negotiations with Musharraf that would see her court an Army chief and stand for reelection as president, and Bhutto return to become prime minister. She said talks between her party and envoys sent by Musharraf had been 80 percent successful. "Two matters appear to have stalled following resistance by members of the ruling party." Reuters

### Raid in France nets ETA's top bomb-maker

PARIS, France — French and Spanish police Saturday foiled a car bomb plot by Basque separatist group ETA, netting its alleged top bomb-maker and three colleagues in what analysts termed a major blow for ETA. Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba told reporters in Madrid the arrests in southwestern France, during which police also seized explosives and detonators, were of "enormous importance." They were the culmination of an operation begun when three other ETA suspects were arrested on the French side of the border in July in a vehicle carrying 150 kilos of explosives, he said. Rubalcaba added the suspects had played key roles in a bomb attack at Madrid's Barajas airport last December that killed two people. AFP

BODY ART IN BULGARIA
A girl shows her body painted with the Ukrainian king Bell during a body art festival in the town of Kuzmitsa, east of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, on Sept. 2. —

# Growing living-tissue heart valves a reality in 3-5 years

PARIS — SURGEONS WILL SOON BE ABLE to literally mend a broken heart using live tissue grown from a patient's very own stem cells, top cardiologists said Monday.

The whole procedure—harvesting cells from bone marrow, growing tissue, and minimally implanting the heart muscle or valve—could take as little as six weeks and would become routine within three to five years, they reported.

Their findings were published in a special issue of the Philosophical Transactions of The Royal Society B in Britain.

One tenant heart attacks are so debilitating, even when they are not fatal, is because the heart—a massive muscle surrounding four valves controlling the body's blood flow—does not regenerate. Damaged tissue stays damaged.

Most problems occur with age, when the old tubes simply begin to wear out.

"For the highest-risk patients, tissue-engineered heart valves is in the treatment of congenital heart malformation," which affects nearly one percent of all newborns, Simon Hoerstrup, lead author of one of the studies, said.

Artificial heart valves currently available must be periodically replaced as children grow, leading to great suffering and higher death rates later in adults.

Bio-engineered heart muscle that could be grafted onto a patient's living tissue without fear of rejection by the immune system has long been a holy grail of cardiovascular medicine.

Artificial replacements "do the job and save people's lives," said celebrated heart surgeon Magdi Yacoub, who coordinated the 26-unit studies.

"But they cannot match the elegant, sophisticated functions of living tissues." While durable, mechanical heartbeats increases the risk of bacterial infection in the heart's inner lining, as well as abnormalities in blood flow. Recipients must also take medication to prevent blood clots, boosting the chances of internal bleeding and embolisms.

Cardiovascular disease, the number one killer worldwide, claimed some 17.5 million lives in 2005, according to the World Health Organization. Many of these deaths might have been avoided by timely surgery to implant replacement valves and heart muscle.

Animal grafts, especially from pigs, are readily available, but differ in some important way from human valves from donors work much better, but are in chronically short supply and can easily provoke immune reactions. AFP

# Iraq civilian deaths up; Bush urges patience

BAGHDAD — CIVILIAN DEATHS FROM violence in Iraq rose in August, with 1,773 people killed, government data showed on Saturday, just days before the US Congress gets a slew of reports on Defense Secretary Robert Gates's visit strategy.

The civilian death toll was up 7 percent from 1,653 people killed in July, according to figures from various ministries.

Nearly a quarter of the August total comprised 411 people killed in massive Shiite bombings against the economy Tuesday community in northern Iraq on Aug. 14.

Without the Tuesday attack, the death toll would still be higher than the June number of 1,227, which had been the lowest monthly total since a US-backed crackdown began in February.

The figures showed 97 Iraqi security forces were killed in August, a big drop from the previous month when 226 were killed.

Bush, under pressure from opposition Democrats and some senior Republicans to begin pulling US troops from Iraq, urged Congress on Friday to wait for the assessments on Iraq's security and political situation before making any judgments.

"The stakes in Iraq are too high and the consequences too grave for our security here at home to allow politics to halt in the interest of our men and women in uniform," Bush said in a statement after visiting military officials at the Pentagon.

The US military says successful attacks have fallen since 30,000 more American troops deployed under Bush's plan to give Iraqi leaders "breathing space" to foster reconciliation between warring Shiite and Sunni Arabs.

The US commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, told an Australian newspaper in an interview this week there had been a 75 percent fall in sectarian killings since last year.

But while some security gains have been achieved, no key laws aimed at healing deep sectarian divisions have been passed, and Shiite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Cabinet has been hit by the withdrawal of nearly half his ministers.

An assessment of the "surge" of troops along with Iraq's political circumstances will be the focus of a series of special reports to the US Congress in the coming two weeks that could prompt a shift in Washington's war policy. Reuters

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# The WORLD

Edna Lorenzo R. Bueza

# US senator in sex solicitation resigns

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICAN US SEN. LARRY Craig, who represented the western state of Idaho for 27 years on Capitol Hill, announced that he was resigning following his arrest for allegedly soliciting sex with an undercover policeman in an airport bathroom.

The announcement Saturday was encouraged by national Republican leaders, worried that the scandal would taint all candidates belonging to the usually conservative party in the 2008 election cycle.

"It is with sadness and deep regret that I announce that it is my intent to resign from the Senate effective Sept. 30," Craig said in a terse statement in Boise, the state capital of western state of Idaho.

An ardent opponent of gay marriage and an outspoken critic of sexual improprieties by other politicians, Craig, 62, said he was "deeply sorry," addressing his apology to the people of Idaho and to his own family.

Flanked by his wife, one of his children and the state governor, Craig said he would resign to remove an "unwanted and unfair distraction" from the Senate.

Idaho's Republican Gov. Butch Otter did not say who he plans to appoint to complete Craig's term until term, which ends in January 2009. The seat will be up for grabs in the November 2008 elections.

Craig's departure does not change the balance of power in the Senate, where Democrats currently hold a narrow 51-49 majority over Republicans.

Republicans have been plagued by a series of scandals.

In 2003, veteran Republican congressman Ed Schrock, who was married and had one child, declined to seek reelection after news surfaced allegedly showing him soliciting sex on a sole-pleasure service used by homosexual men to arrange meetings.

In September 2006, representative Mark Foley long a vocal adversary against child abuse, resigned after evidence surfaced of a long history of soliciting teenage boys working as aides in the Congress. AFP

IDAHO Sen. Larry Craig announces his resignation from the Senate on Sept. 1, in Boise, Idaho, as his wife Suzanne stands by his side. AP

## *Tall story: Tiny gene variation influences height*

By Richard Ingham

PARIS—SCIENTISTS ON SUNday announced they had uncovered the first gene that helps explain common differences in height among humans.

Just a single change in the gene's DNA code determines whether people will be taller or shorter by up to one centimeter (0.4 of an inch), they said, adding that hundreds of other genes are also likely to play a role in height.

Genetic heritage has long been known as the driver of height....everyone knows that a child whose parents are both tall is also likely to grow up tall, too.

Unlike aliens, where genes and environment (the

text (nutrition and exercise for example) play a joint role, around 90 percent of the determinants for height are genetic.

Even though the link is clearly there, finding "height" genes that are common across the population has been strangely elusive. Until now, the only evidence has been spread among a small group of people with a rare condition that affects their growth.

In a paper published by the journal Nature Genetics, British and US circuits analyzed DNA from nearly 5,000 white people of European descent, mainly individuals living in Britain, Sweden and Finland. AFP

POPE Benedict XVI prays in front of a statue of Our Lady of Lavinio in Lavinio, central Italy, on Sept. 1. AFP

## Pope leads Church's first eco-friendly rally

LORETO, ITALY—POPE BENEdict on Saturday led the Catholic Church's first eco-friendly youth rally—where nearly everything used was biodegradable or recyclable—and urged his young listeners to save "disposable love."

The 80-year-old Pope told the young people, estimated by organizers at some 200,000, to dare to change the world and search for lasting, meaningful relationships.

The one-day rally, which coincide with the Italian Catholic Church's "Day for Safeguarding Creation," saw young people sprawled on a vast hillside near the central Adriatic shrine city of Loreto.

Italy's Catholic Church, which organized the event, said it was the first environment-friendly youth rally, a break from past gatherings that left tons of garbage and scars on the earth.

A "participants' kit" included backpacks made of recyclable material, a flashlight operated by a crank instead of batteries, and sober-toned trash bags so their personal garbage could be easily recycled. Meals were served on biodegradable plates.

Tens of thousands of prayer-books for Sunday's Mass were printed on recycled paper and an adequate number of seats needle-be oriented to campsites for the carbon produced at the event, many in areas of southern Italy devastated by recent brushfires.

The Vatican has become progressively "green." It has installed photovoltaic cells on buildings to produce electricity and hosted a scientific conference on climate change. Reuters

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Please see supplement at page A22-23

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# Corteza sputters in Tour finals

## Pinoy pockets $10,000 after lucky, gutsy march

BALI, INDONESIA—TAIWAN'S CHANG JUN-Ting avenged his loss to Lee Yuan Corteza in the eliminations, hacking out an 11-8 victory over the Filipino yesterday to win the Guinness 9-ball Tour Grand Finals at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

Chang took advantage of a series of scratch shots and poor stroke selections by Corteza to finish strong from 7-all and capture the top prize of $10,000 in the final tournament of the Tour's inaugural season.

Corteza, who beat Chang, 8-5, in their group-stage match Saturday to advance to the semifinals, settled for the runner-up purse of $5,000.

Earlier, Corteza defeated another Taiwanese, Wu Chia-ching, 13-9, in the semifinals to avenge the titular downdown with Chang, a 13-12 winner over compatriot Yang Ching-shun earlier.

Wu, the 2006 World 9-ball champion, led most of the way but two scratch miscues in the endgame allowed Corteza, who hails from Davao City, to reach the title match.

Tied at 9-all, the 18-year old Pin had a scratch on the break of the 19th frame, allowing the 28-year old Corteza to reach the hill.

Corteza, who used power breaks earlier in the match to take a 2-1 lead, shifted to the soft break starting in the 9th frame to edge Wu's head-to-head, 6-5.

Chang needed three-and-a-half frames to beat Yang in the first semifinal match yesterday afternoon.

The 19th-ranked Corteza, who made it to the Grand Finals thanks to compatriot Nomio Alvarado's turnup showing in the Shanghai leg last month, also bowed to Chang in the finals of the Jakarta leg, the season-opener's inaugural leg, in April.

But Alvarez, the world 9-ball and 8-ball champion, failed to advance this time in Group A where Yang, Ching-shun and Wu finished 1-2 to reach the semifinals.

The other Group A entries were Victor Sjoeng of Indonesia and India's Dharminder Singh Lilly.

Bracketed in Group A with Corteza and Chang were Chang Jung-lung of Taiwan, Giga-gani's Bernard Tey and Ibrahim Amir of Malaysia. Marlon Bernardino contributed one

LEE Yuan Corteza (in the photo, right) mulled the championship round with Taiwan's Chang Jun-ling with a runner-up finish behind semifinal victory over Chang's Taiwan world champion compatriot Wu Chia-ching.

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# Realtors, Koreans forge title duel

# Knights eye bonus vs Bombers

# La Salle, UST boost Final Four bids

A DRIVING Edwin Asoro (center) of UST loses possession as he closes in on La Salle's Brian Heal in yesterday's game.

## SPORTSWATCH

### World champion Nishioka foils RP's Gejon 2 second time

### Sarmiento dominates Active Mid Amateur Open

# In-form Lascuña cools down, settles for 3rd

LASCUÑA

# Pinoy chesser rules GM-laden Rome tilt

# Ardina balloons to 77 but still makes cut

## Pacquiao: Apology and good news

BARE EYE

*Ricardo Trinidad*

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

FEARLESS: Teenager on the court stands

# Teenager polishes off Maria

NEW YORK—GOOD RESULT

**needling game and crowd's surprising movie, Maria Sharapova runs completely lost.**

Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland pulled off the stunning upset, beating the defending US Open champion, 6-4, 7-6, 6-2, in a third-round match that was a startling turn Saturday.

Sharapova seemed to take control by winning eight games in a row, giving her a 2-0 lead in the final set. Then, the fell spun and stopped the last six games.

"I could sit here and blame the wind and blame my opponent. But there are no excuses," Sharapova said. "I'm not going to throw myself a pity party here."

Sharapova became the first No. 2 seeded woman to lose before the round of 16 at the Open since Andrea Jaeger in 1985.

The ninth Russia for top seeded Roger Federer, who proved too much for 6-foot-9 Australian rookie John Isner in a 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Isner used his booming serve to win the first set tiebreaker.

"Four months ago, I was unranked," Isner said. "To go from that to beating Roger Federer is a set to pretty cool."

Fifth-seeded Andy Roddick breezed, beating 2002 Australia Open champion Thomas Johansson of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0, to reach the fourth round.

In other men's matches, No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko of Russia beat No. 20 Nicolas Almagro of Spain, 7-5, 6-4, 7-5, No. 8 Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1, in a match that finished after 1 a.m. local time Sunday, while No. 9 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic and No. 30 Tommy Haas of Germany advanced.

One minor upset came when No. 19 Andy Murray lost to 43rd-ranked Lu Yen-hsun, 6-3, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. AP

## Guy wins 3rd gold medal

CHIBA, JAPAN—TYSON GAY JOINED some but, last compare, Akeem Felix is a one away from doing he same. The powerhouse pair helped the United States sweep the men's and women's 4x100-meter relays Saturday night at the world track and field championships in a rainy, packed Nagai Stadium. Gay joined Carl Lewis and Maurice Greene as the only men to win three gold medals at one world meet. Felix, winner of the 200 meters on Friday night, earned her second gold and can get a third in the women's 4x400-relay Sunday night. AP

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# Mission accomplished for US, Argentina

LAS VEGAS—LUIS SCOLA scored 27 points and Argentina, playing without four NBA players on hand the team that won Olympic gold in 2004, beat Brazil, 91-80, on Saturday in the semifinals of the American basketball tournament to earn a berth at the Beijing Games.

Argentina will meet the United States in the American final after the Americans later crushed their spot at the 2008 Olympics by crushing Puerto Rico, 120-93.

Scola, who signed with the Houston Rockets, and Carlos Delfino, who plays for the Toronto Raptors, were the NBA stars of the Argentina team, which lost one game in the tournament—95-79 to the United States in the second round.

The four NBA players from the gold medal team—Manu Ginobili, Fabricio Oberto, Andres Nocioni and Walter Herrmann—are all expected to join Argentina for the 2008 Olympics.

Argentina, the United States, host China, the reigning world champion Spain and nine other teams from Angola and Australia have all earned berths at Beijing. Two European contests will be decided this month.

Lithuania, Puerto Rico and fifth place finisher Canada all advanced to a 12-team qualifying tournament next July that will determine the final berths in Beijing. AP

A PAIR of arms raised in V make a W, which is exactly what Team USA got over Puerto Rico. Jason Kidd (left) and Kobe Bryant celebrate the win, which qualified the US for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. REUTERS

# Beem hangs tough as Tiger, Phil make charge

NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS—ROD BEEM kept alive his improbable run at the Deutsche Bank Championship with birdies on his last four holes for a 5-under 65 Saturday, leaving him in a three-way tie with Mike Weir and Aaron Baddeley.

One week after he narrowly avoided elimination from those PGA Tour Playoffs, Beem earned Bank home three-round title wants to advance to the third tournament next week, and a rewarded leaderboard with 36 holes remaining includes Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods, who each shot 66 to get within shoot of the lead.

It was another strong showing by Beem, who is deadly because the greater bay than even long shots are allowed to 36-hole of a $10-million prize for the winner of the FedEx Cup.

"Of all the things I could be the poster child for this is not the one that I would have picked," said Beem. AP

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# BUSINESS

Editor Raul C. Pangalangan ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Nerona
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## BSP expects '07 trade deficit to hit $6.9B

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Coal still seen as fuel of choice /B2
■ Cosco firms up plans for $3-B hub /B3

### STOCK MARKET

**PSE to follow US market higher**

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET WOULD LIKELY be buoyed by positive sentiment in New York, following last Friday's unveiling by US President George W. Bush of a plan of measures to help homeowners cope with the credit crunch.
His research notes to clients, stock broker

PREVIOUS

### CURRENCIES

FULL STORY

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS BRACING FOR A TRADE DEFICIT of $6.9 billion this year—wider than the $4.5 billion posted last year—due to high oil prices and cutthroat global competition in electronic exports.

Based on the latest projections of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, export earnings will grow at a rate of 8 percent—slower than last year—and generate $49.9 billion this year. The revised figure on trade inflows is much lower than the earlier forecast.

BSP EXPECTS /B2

BPI Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

The BPI Network: Creating Customer Touch Points to Suit Your Lifestyle

Over the years, Bank of the Philippine Islands has been designing and redesigning its network to meet the changing times and the evolving lifestyles of its customers.

From brick-and-mortar to virtual, from person-to-person to electronic, from ATM to mobile banking, BPI offers its clients a vast array of customer touch points to make their banking as convenient as possible. Today, via BPI Family Net, it boasts of over 800 branches, more than 1,000 ATMs, 12,000 point-of-sale terminals and a 24/7 Call Center. And with its Express Phone, Express Online and Express Mobile, every landline, PC and cellphone is now part of the BPI network.

While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network – its location, its assigned services for unique target markets and on the facilities you'll find within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch in the mall which caters to individuals who can find it the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or other office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express Banking Center (BEC) allow shoppers to open an express teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The BEC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although open longer, adhere to its strategy to provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Just last, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly services for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels – ATM, phone and online banking – and an Express Service Counselor to assist and assure you in completing your transactions using these channels. Talkers are also on hand, as well as Express Sales Counselors to answer your queries and offer financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, the Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express ushered this citation-leading other international banks.

Truly, banking has gone a long way with BPI's innovations in total customer touch points. You can expect nothing less from a bank that takes to heart its commitment to bring its customers further.

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BPI EXPRESS: The Friendly Place to Bank

BPI Express innovation offers better-assisted transactions, self-service banking and financial advice. It won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards.

Time. Somehow there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just thinking about the lines – from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller – can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank – it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying – the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But that no more. Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution–its newest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.

*It's a bank that's adapted for today's hurried lifestyle.*

From the moment you enter the stylish, not-so-bank-looking bank, you notice the difference. The sunny decor, relaxed yet fast-moving mood and even the helpful, friendly BPI Express Counselors make it feel more like a boutique than a bank.

The BPI Express consultation area is designed to feel cozy. Financial discussions with clients stress privacy and confidence.

*Basic transactions are quick and easy with the BPI Express Electronic Banking zone.*

There you'll find BPI Express Teller ATMs, a phone for BPI Express Phone and a computer to access BPI Express Online. Plus, a BPI Express Services Counselor is there to help you every step of the way. Once you learn how to do it, you can do your banking from the comfort of your home or your office.

*BPI Express has friendly tellers on hand for your other transactions.*

BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane – a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "express" isn't just about speed. It's also about expression...just tell us what you need, and we'll help you find it – not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.

*BPI Express offers private financial consultations.*

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick – and pleasant – your banking experience could be.

When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

Cozy tables are made to make you feel your simple, routine transactions. That's why more and more clients and transactions are here.

BPI Express Service Counselors are on hand to teach you about phone and online banking.

BPI Express branches: METRO MANILA: Alabang – Ayala Ave. – Bel-Air – Buendia – Cubao – Escolta – Greenhills – Kalaw – Katipunan – Makati – Malugay – Mandaluyong – Marikina – Megamall – Muñoz – Ortigas – Pasay – Quezon Ave. – Roosevelt – Salcedo – San Juan – Shaw Blvd. – Taft – Tomas Morato – Tuason – Valenzuela – Vito Cruz – Wack-Wack – Welcome Rotonda – Alabang – Bonifacio Global City – Cubao – Eastwood – Fairview – Festival Supermall – Filinvest Corporate City – Gateway – Greenhills – Harbor Point

# Coal still seen as fuel of choice

## Mine expert cites mineral's abundance, stable price

By Abigail L. Ho

ENVIRONMENT GROUPS MAY BE strongly opposed to its use, but coal is likely to remain the fuel of choice for power generation, due mainly to its abundance and relatively lower price as compared with other fuel types.

Energy industry sources said Mr. Hitachi and Energy Corp. over their Subic thermoelectric coal-fired power generation companies, in particular, were likely to continue to lean more toward coal as oil, since other fuel sources such as oil and natural gas were concentrated in the Middle East and Russia.

In a presentation during the recent Asian Energy Business Forum in Singapore, he said the cost of coal-based power or generation was estimated at only 4.5 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh), as compared with 4.5-4.9 centavos per kWh for natural gas combined cycle, 2.6 centavos per kWh for large hydropower facilities, 3.18 centavos per kWh for wind and 10.68 centavos per kWh for solar.

"Coal prices are likely to remain lower and more stable in the future," he said, adding that prices had declined in coal mines over the past years due to market competition.

And coal is almost evenly distributed around the world. It is being mined in more than 50 countries, he said.

Based on available data, he said, there are enough coal reserves for 160 years of production. Oil and gas reserves, on the other hand, could be depleted by as early as the middle of the 21st century.

The ease of starting coal-fire generator another advantage, as it could be ready almost on the case of emergency, he said. Since it was not dependent on weather, it could be used as backup for wind and hydropower.

"Low-cost coal-fired power generation enhances the use of renewable energy, especially wind power which is inherently erratic, by using the former as baseload and the latter for peaking," he said.

Samsaong also said that clean coal technology is now available. The technology can reduce the impact of coal combustion on the environment and address concerns of militant groups.

**MILESTONES**
President Macapagal-Arroyo views the gallery of milestones, detailing Tele/Tech's growth in the Philippines. With Ms. Arroyo is Tele/Tech's chairman Nicki Agcaoili (left), Tele/Tech vice presidents Maudie Parish (back) and Eric Secretary Peter Favila. Tele/Tech currently employs over 13,000 Filipino employees in 13 delivery centers across the country. Tele/Tech Ups is the 9th site to be inaugurated by the company.


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# PSE to follow US market higher

From page B1

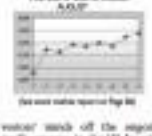
ago All Capital Securities said security on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) would also take its cue from the speech given by US Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke during the agency's annual conference at the end of last week.

"Being closely tied to the US economy, the Philippine market will feel the effects of the US markets reaction to Bernanke's speech," the brokerage firm said.

At the end of last week, the PSE index rose by a total of 116.26 points, representing a 4.94-percent gain from the previous week's close of 3,306.94.

The PSEi regained gains from Tuesday onward, ending the week at 3,543.20.

Thursday's announcement by the government of a 7.1-percent growth in the local economy helped the market gain 3.43 percent in a single day, taking investors' minds off the ongoing credit squeeze in the US housing market.




Despite this, trading activity last week was slightly lower with only P15.476 billion worth of shares changing hands, compared to the P17.626 billion of the week before.

All Capital said gains in the local market this week would likely be muted by continued caution among investors, pending clearer signals that the liquidity crisis in the United States has subsided.

"The market is not expected to move by a huge margin in either direction. [But] week," the research unit said. "Low trading volumes could cause blue chips will prevail while investors wait for a clear cut signal that the volatility brought about by the ES problem has been resolved."

This week's upside would likely come from statements made by Bernanke on Friday that the US central bank would "do what is needed" to calm the credit markets—a statement interpreted by the market as policymakers' openness to reducing interest rates when the Federal Open Market Committee meets on Sept. 18.

Lower interest rates in the US usually prompt fund managers to shift their funds' higher-yielding investments abroad like the Philippines.

Any upward move would likely put the PSEi above the 3,600 level, while immediate support is seen at the 3,320.

Trading values are also expected to improve as investors return to the market with the end of the traditional Christmas "ghost month," and as fund managers return from their summer vacations, Dante L. Jose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# Cosco firms up plans for $3-B hub

## China maritime giant wants to put up facilities in Subic, Sangley Point

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM CHINESE shipping giant China Ocean Shipping Co. will be making a third visit to the country to figure out how to split a $3 billion regional cargo hub between Sangley Point and Subic.

Fidencio Cinco, presidential adviser on China trade and investments, said in an interview that the team had visited twice in July to look over the former US naval base.

Cosco originally considered building a base at Sangley Point in Cavite, where it would collect shipments from various points in the region, before sending these out to the United States and other destinations in the Pacific.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has even issued an executive order (midad ing the development of Sangley Point into an international logistics hub.

But Cinco said the Cosco team, comprised of experts from the group's diverse operations in the region, had seen the advantages of locating to Subic as well. He added Cosco did not want to step over toes owned by anyone.

"My office and Cosco are working to have the project started promptly," Cinco said. "Once started in Subic it could be within the year ... this is a very crucial investment (for both sides)."

In an earlier interview, Chua, who is also honorary president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said Cosco wanted to build a shipping hub at Sangley Point, because of its nearness to Manila, as well as to Subic, because it offers the best option for eventual expansion of operations.

Chua said that while Cosco was studying Sangley and Subic, local government executives in other provinces across the country also offered alternative sites for the project.

He also said that Cosco was prepared to front the entire bill for the development of whichever site was chosen, including land reclamation and port construction.

Cosco invests about $9 to $10 billion on which to build a pier and container yard.

Founded in 1961 as an international shipping carrier in China, Cosco is now a $17-billion corporation that provides services in freight forwarding, shipbuilding, ship repair, terminal operations, trade, financing, container and information technology.

Cosco owns and operates a merchant fleet of some 600 vessels, with total carrying capacity of up to 33 million dead-weight tons.

## BSP expects '07 ...

From page B1

of $53.3 billion.

The export growth outlook was scaled down from 13 percent after the country's biggest export earner, the electronics sector, was forced to quote lower prices to sell their goods abroad. The sector reportedly had to cope with the steep price cuts caused by stiffer competition among high-tech manufacturers.

Although sales volume has not declined as global demand remained vibrant, earnings of local manufacturers have softened due to lower selling prices.

Importers have also complained that the sharp appreciation of the peso against the US dollar this year have affected their competitiveness. The local currency currently trading at the 47 level, has strengthened by over 9% of 51 percent, so far this year.

The BSP projected that the growth in the country's import bill would ease by 7 percent to $56.6 billion. Earlier, growth was projected to hit 11 percent.

The country's main electronics exports, like chips and semiconductors, are dependent on foreign-made materials. A slowdown in imports would mean a slowdown in exports.

Import expenses for this year were previously estimated by the BSP at $58.4 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of $7.2 billion — slightly higher than the $6.9 billion shortfall early projected.

In its latest outlook, the BSP listed in the possible downside risks of the country's trade to growth positions in the second semester. The country's annual trade deficit in the first semester hit on by $976 million.

From January to June this year, total imports grew by 2.3 percent to $25.204 billion, while exports increased by 6.6 percent to $16.527 billion as against their respective year-ago figures.

But the BSP said the chronic trade deficits would not hinder the country from posting new record highs in its balance of payments and gross international reserves.

Remittances from overseas Filipino workers and an increase in foreign investments, particularly hot money going to local stocks and bonds, are seen to support the country's BOP and ORR build-up.

The BSP on Friday announced to increase outlook on the country's GDP and BOP. It said gross international reserves would hit $38 billion, while balances of payments would post a surplus of $6.5 billion by year's end.

# Landbank to help raise small banks' capital base

## Facility to buy unsecured subordinated debts to be issued by rural, thrift banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES will invest P1 billion in a facility that will help beef up the capital base of small banks operating in the countryside.

Landbank launched on Friday the facility which would be used to buy unsecured subordinated debts to be issued by qualified rural banks, thrift banks and cooperative banks. These debts will be eligible as tier 2 (or supplementary) capital. The move is expected to help small banks raise their capital adequacy ratios and comply with stiffer international accounting standards.

Bank president Gilda Pico said the program, called unsecured Amortization Debt Facility (UDF), was the bank's way of replicating its success in raising tier 1 capital.

Landbank issued in October last year P250 million worth of subordinated notes in a coupon rate of 7.5 percent, its first venture into the global capital market. The proceeds allowed the bank to boost its capital adequacy ratio to 15 percent.

"With the success of our issuance last year, we thought it best to share this experience with our partner financial institutions in the countryside," Pico said.

"We expect the UDF to help beef up the capital base of our partner CFIs and enable them to move effectively into the new era of globalization and play a greater role as catalyst of change in their respective communities," she explained.

Five CFIs were the first to sign a memorandum of understanding with Landbank for the use of this new facility. These are Citi Bank in Nueva Ecija, First Valley Bank of Luzon del Norte, the Philippine Rural Banking Corp. in Cauayan, Isabela, the Green Bank in Bataan City and the Producers Rural Banking Corp. in Nueva Ecija.

The launch was held during the awarding ceremonies for five CFIs picked by Landbank as its outstanding partners in extending credit to priority sectors—farmers and fisherfolk, small and medium enterprises and microenterprises.

The top five CFIs were: First Agro Industrial Rural Bank in Cebu, Philippine Rural Banking Corp. in Isabela, People's Bank of Caraga Inc. in Agusan del Sur, Rural Bank of Mabitac in Laguna, and Rural Bank of Digos in Davao del Sur.

The Rural Bank of Pola in Oriental Mindoro and First Valley Inc. of Luzon del Norte were elevated to the Hall of Fame this year.

"We work closely with the CFIs in providing the much-needed resources to marginalized sectors, particularly farmers and fisherfolk and microentrepreneurs, which have limited access to credit assistance," Pico said.

Q.
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## Seed producers eye export markets

BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?
FLYPAD
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

By Amy R. Remo

THE LOCAL SEED INDUSTRY EXPECTS TO grab a bigger share of the $34-billion global market for seeds through the staging of the 2007 Asian Seed Congress in the country (a Newsflash).

With the theme "Cultivating Ties for Quality Seeds & Bountiful Harvests," the event is organized by the Philippine Seed Industry Association, the Department of Agriculture and The Asia Pacific Seed Association to bring to the country the latest in seed technology.

Mary Ann F. Sayne, general manager of East-West Seed, said the expert market was largely untapped by local suppliers. She said country exports only about 10 percent of its seed output.

Sayne said East-West Seed is a multinational vegetable seed producer. It produces, develops and sells tropical hybrid vegetable seeds.

PSIA president Wilfredo Y. Uy said the event would pave the way for the forging of business deals and the exchange of seed technology.

"With increased local activity and investments in the seed industry, our farmers would have more choices of seeds and technologies. They will be able to choose the ones that are best suited for their farms," Uy said.

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# Teves may order review of tax on BAT cigarettes

By Michelle V. Ramos

## Finance chief just awaiting formal appeal

FINANCE SECRETARY MARgarito Teves said he was willing to order a review of a move to lower the excise tax on Fall Mall cigarettes of British American Tobacco (BAT).

"[The Department of Finance] may order a review of the lowering of the tax if any one will make an appeal on the decision," Teves said.

The finance chief said the reduction in the excise tax on Fall Mall, from P26 to P6 per pack, was based on a recommendation by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, under then Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag.

The DOF approved the tax cut upon the endorsement of Finance Undersecretary Gonzalo Garcia Jr., head of the DOF legal team.

Fall Mall was recently revised in the local market by Senate Internal Tobacco. Under the law, old cigarette brands are charged lower excise tax rates.

A provision in the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 contains the cigarette brands and the corresponding tax rates. Brands that came out after the Tax Code was put in place, or the so-called new brands, are covered by tax rates based on current market prices.

BAT won the endorsement of the BIR by insisting that it was an old brand and, therefore, should not be slapped the higher excise tax of P26 per pack.

The decision of the BIR to revise the excise tax on Fall Mall to only P6 per pack, however, caught the attention of Congress.

Rep. Exequiel Javier of Antique was quoted in reports as saying he would call for a review of the excise tax rates on cigarettes and the way revenues are harvested, implement the increase.

Under said the country's system of taxing cigarettes was flawed since it favored old brands. Although the government in 2003 passed the the Tax Law, which mandated an increase in the excise tax rates, it did not address the inequality in taxation between old and new brands, as the latter are still charged high excises.

The Tax Tax Code has been unable to meet the government's target of raising its revenue collection from cigarette and alcohol manufacturers through the imposition of higher tax rates.

The excise tax collection of the BIR reached only P24.49 billion in the first half, 11.7 percent lower than year-ago's P28.713 billion.

The latest excise tax collection figure also fell short by 2 percent of the P26.62 billion target for the six-month period.

Although the decline was partly attributed to the shift in consumers' preference to cheaper cigarettes, the BIR said it could also be due to under declaration of production by manufacturers.

Excise taxes should be paid before the products are taken out of factories. Producers whose taxes have already been paid are marked by tax personnel with a seal.

But Revenue Deputy Commissioner Nelson Aspe earlier said some cigarette makers were tampered to be using fake seals just to avoid paying the proper taxes.

This is why the BIR is preparing an improved system of sealing the tax compliance of cigarette makers, he said.

## PRCI owners urged to disclose deals

THE MINORITY SHAREHOLders of Philippine Racing Club Inc. called on the majority stockholders of the firm to "produce and open to public scrutiny all the documents" of the sale related to the controversial purchase of 351 Derma Holdings and the bid to swap the ownership of the firm. Any increase with shares of that company".

The group made the call following a move by the majority shareholders to quash a subpoena duces tecum issued by the Makati Regional Trial Court in its petition before the Court of Appeals.

The subpoena ordered the majority shareholders to produce the documents pertaining to the two deals.

The minority shareholders of PRCI earlier moved to stop the swap deal that would have transferred the ownership of the Sta. Ana racetrack to another company in exchange for shares in JTI Davies Holdings.

Lawyer Brigido Dulay Jr., spokesperson for the minority shareholders, said the move to quash the subpoena issued by the lower court "is a clear admission that the majority shareholders do not wish to have the truth behind the questioned deals".

| Investment Funds | Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU) | |
|---|---|---|
| | as of 8/27/07 | as of 8/28/07 |
| Philamlife Equity Fund | 1.7913 | 1.8203 |
| Philamlife Fixed Income Fund | 1.2773 | 1.2791 |
| Philamlife Balanced Fund | 0.8853 | 0.8978 |
| Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund | 1.2167 | 1.2198 |
| Philamlife Global Bond Fund | 1.1771 | 1.1925 |

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# Record ₱82.93B in equity raised as of Aug, PSE says

## Exchange sees figure going up to P100B by yearend

By Dexter L. Lucas

COMPANIES RAISED A RECORD amount of equity capital through the local bourse in the first eight months of the year, taking advantage of strong investor appetite during the period, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) said.

The PSE said that funds generated from various capital-raising activities reached ₱82.93 billion as of August, exceeding the previous record of ₱57.22 billion raised through the stock market in 2006.

"What is more remarkable about the new record high is that we did it in just eight months," PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement.

He said that the bourse and corporate regulators were still processing several applications for fund-raising activities by firms, which could see the total amount top the P100-billion level this year.

"We're going to be another record-breaking level, because we have seen or compiled that much in offering proceeds in a single year," he added. "Such a feat reflects the bullish sentiment of investors who are behind the market's overall advance."

Stock prices, as tracked by the PSE index (PSEi), began breaking new ground when it set a then-historic high of 3,049.16 last May 18, 2007, erasing the previous record high of 3,447.60 points set on Feb. 3, 1997.

On July 3, it reached the current all-time high of 3,791.42 points.

The market soon after entered a slump in an offshoot of concerns over the U.S subprime mortgage market.

Last August 16, the PSEi fell to 2,941.31 points, edging out all gains for the year. It fell further to 2,894.94 points the following day to suffer its lowest close for the year.

Another day later, however, the PSEi surged a strong rebound, closing 103.15 points higher, marking the biggest point gain in a single day by the index.

At the end of August, the PSEi closed at 3,165.29 points or 13.5 percent higher than its 2,882.94-point level in 2006.

"I think many companies share my optimism about our market's ability to rebound," Lim said. "That explains why we still have several listing applications pending before us."

The PSE said that seven firms listed during the period, with six of them conducting initial public offerings, which raised ₱13.62 billion in fresh capital.

The amount was 65 percent more than the ₱8.24-billion level recorded for the same period last year.

Mostly Power Corp. raised the largest amount from an IPO at ₱18.06 billion, followed by National Reinvestment Corporation of the Philippines at ₱2.82 billion.

The other IPO firms were Global Network Inc. (₱1.35 billion), Anchor Land Holdings Inc. (₱772.93 million), Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. (₱284.2 million) and Hi-eSic Online Systems Corp. (₱134.74 million).

The seventh firm that went public, Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., opted to list by way of introduction.

Equity from follow-on offerings of six companies amounted to ₱46.79 billion, almost triple its ₱16.24-billion level for the corresponding period in 2006 or 187 percent more than the ₱29.7 billion doubled up for the whole of 2006.

Vista Land pooled the biggest amount from a follow-on offering at ₱14.32 billion, followed by Alliance Global Group Inc. at ₱14.35 billion. Other firms that completed follow-on offerings during the period were Filinvest Land Inc. (₱5.32 billion), Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (₱5.07 billion), Philippine National Bank (₱3.25 billion) and Union Bank of the Philippines (₱5.04 billion).

Capital from stock rights offerings of eight companies hit ₱13.76 billion, or 21 times more than the ₱651.99-million mark a year ago and seven times larger than the ₱2.35-billion level for 2006.

Megaworld Properties and Holdings Inc. accounted for the biggest proceeds from stock rights offerings at ₱10.79 billion.

In addition to Jollibee are offerings, Alliance Global raised ₱7.2 billion, while DMF posted ₱265.5 million, via stock rights offerings.

The other firms that raised capital via stock rights offerings include Georgetown Resources Philippines Inc. (₱200 million), Bell Corp. (₱549 million) and ISM Communications Corp. (₱308 million).

## Lafayette earns ISO seal

BAPE BAPE PRO-curing Inc. has secured an ISO 14001:2004 certification for its environmental management system.

The ISO 14001:2004 certification recognizes the environmental safeguards, procedures and management systems in place at the company's processing plant in Baya Bay-an, Albay.

It also requires the company to submit itself to periodic audits by an independent team to make sure it remains compliant with all ISO requirements.

Carlos G. Dominguez, chair of Lafayette Philippines, said, "This certification proves our company's commitment to responsible mining and environmental protection. Our management team that took over the Baya Bay-an project in January 2006 fully committed itself to obtaining this certification."

Certification International Philippines Inc. (Cipi), a third-party ISO certification body, recommended the certification after BAPE met all the ISO 14001:2004 requirements in the two-stage certification audit in May and July.

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# Extraordinary growth

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THE RECENT LAST WEEK OF the GNP/GDP growth figures for the second quarter of 2007 was again met with the same mixture of surprise, disbelief and skepticism that greeted the 6.9-percent first quarter GDP growth announced last May.

The reported 7.3-percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter over the year-ago figure is the highest our economy has achieved in the last 20 years. It is also better than that achieved by most of any neighbors, rumpled only by Singapore's 6.6-percent and China's 11.6-percent GDP growth rates.

## Same questions

But why is it that rather than rejoice and congratulate ourselves over the pleasant early days, the common reaction seems to be one of disbelief and skepticism? Have we Filipinos become too accustomed to failure that we cannot deal with success? Or have we become so accustomed to bad news that even the economic growth statistics cannot be accept born-suspicion of fiasco, manipulation or plain inaccuracy?

The same questions people asked in the first quarter are being asked all over again. Is the 7.3-percent growth rate too good to be true? And granted that it is true, is it too good to last? Can it be sustained?

The first question posed is somewhat inflicted words by a year-ago figure, a display of the famous presidential temper last week. But can the numbers indeed be believed, or should rigor of the panel support current shortcomings in the technical capability of the statistical agencies, manifested, among other things, by a glaring lack of outright absence of advanced degree holders in statistics in the most critical statistical agencies. There are also serious questions on the methods being employed to generate the data. All these make the "too good to be true" question more than an appropriate entire's sentiment reaction.

## Government drives

A closer examination of the growth data helps in answering the second question pertaining to sustainability of the growth. One must first ask what let the economy to grow much faster than the 5.1 percent that was analyzed had been expecting. The it a matter of simple arithmetic: One only needs to identify the components of the economy that grew faster than 5-6 percent, because these must have been responsible for pulling up the growth to the surprising level we are seeing.

From the expenditure or demand side, it was only government consumption spending (23.3 percent) and capital formation via construction (18.5 percent) that grew much faster than the overall conservation growth was actually dominated by government consumption, which grew 19.6 percent against an anemic 3.5 percent growth in private consumption. The other two remaining major components of demand, such as personal consumption and exports, grew by a paltry and 4.2 percent, respectively and, thus, could not explain the extraordinary growth. It is also clear that the extraordinary growth of the economy in the first half was provided by extraordinary government spending, induced mainly by the May elections.

## Will it last?

Will government spending continue on a hot clip to provide the same extraordinary production growth? The election impetus for increased government spending is no longer there, as this now largely hinges on government finances—and recent revenue performance doesn't provide much basis for confidence here. BIR reports needed to provide the sustained growth in tax revenues developments and 10 economic difficulties makes it unlikely Can private consumption further accelerate to the 7.4 percent range? Given the past? The global slowdown being provided by adverse readers

# Canadian mining firm expands exploration targets in Batangas

By Russel M. Dominguez

CANADIAN PEKO MINERALS RESOURCES Ltd. said it had secured an exploration permit for a nearly 1,100 hectares of land area in mining gold and copper prospects in Batangas.

Mindoro Resources said in a statement that the permit covered five parcels of land with "multiple gold and copper gold targets" where drill testing was planned for 2008 after ground work was completed and the priority drill targets defined.

In the statement, the company said the land was within its prospect area in Batangas which covered an issue 50,000 hectares of a well- mineralized copper-gold belt.

Mindoro Resources said the permit was acquired under an agreement with Philex Mining Corp., which allowed the former and its partner - Egerton Gold Phils. - to acquire up to 1.66 percent interest in the property. This is, however, subject to an underlying net smelter royalty of 2 percent to Philex.

Mindoro Resources, which trades on the Toronto-based TSX Venture Exchange, provided the following data for each parcel of land:

• the 1562-hectare parcel 1, on the western side of the warring Cale porphyry copper-gold prospect, where drill-tested ore samples showed 3.6 percent copper content and 3 grams of gold and 16 grams of silver per ton;

• the 495-hectare parcel 2, near the Lalo project, where a a small gold deposit was confirmed in 1989;

• the 387-hectare parcel 3, near the Archangel gold-copper project, covers the Tabon copper prospect where samples yielded 0.1 percent copper content and 3.8 grams of gold and 3.43 grams of silver per ton of ore;

• the 242-hectare parcel 4, also near the Archangel project, covers an extension of the so-called Boom prospect which has shown indications of a porphyry copper-gold target deep underground; and

• the 263-hectare parcel 5, again near the Archangel project, covers an extension of the Key Tunda gold-silver prospect where the Firm has defined at least 550 tonnes.

In May Mindoro Resources announced it would raise (US$22.45 million (or P 934 million) through the TSX Venture Exchange to help advance its projects in the Philippines.

Mindoro Resources is looking 22 identified porphyry copper gold prospects in the Philippines, spread across other areas in Batangas and the northeastern tip of Mindanao as well as Pan de Azucar Island off Palawan.

The Firm's Batangas package comprises 34,000 hectares of a gold-copper belt encompassing Lobo and Archangel and other acquisitions in the province.

Its Surigao package covers 24,000 hectares and is the second largest in the province, with mineral zones of epithermal gold, copper-gold porphyry and nickel-cobalt laterite.

# PNOC unit inve

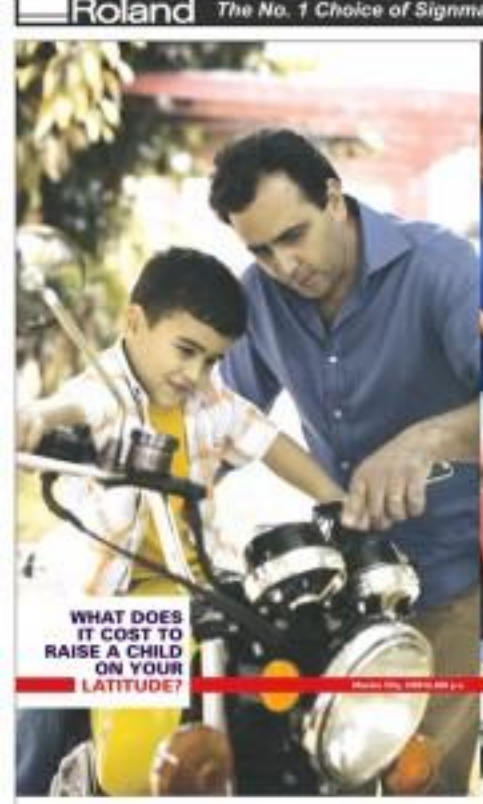
By Abigail L. Ho

DNA BIOTECHNOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY, ventures in prospect, PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC), a unit of Philippine National Oil Co., spent nearly $1 million for its research and development efforts.

For the nineties alone, PNOC-AFC president and chief executive Peter Antonio Abrera said the company had spent about P32 million, or about a third of what it had invested to-date in research and development.

"We're still undergoing processes testing. We've planned various varieties to test their behavior and their yield. Most likely, we'll go into all the varieties present in Alabang and in Palawan," he said.

He said PNOC-AFC's R&D team, together with its partners at the Department of Science and Technology, had planted about seven jatropha varieties



**OFF TO BEIJING**
Thirty-four young Filipinos, comprising the first batch of talents John Schnograf's scholars, pose for the camera before checking in at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Inc-Gate light on Beijing. They were selected by the Dabongmal Brothers Foundation from hundreds of applicants for a one-year, all-expenses-paid study in China. The program aims to hone the talents of the country's future leaders.

# Money supply growth slows down

## Target is to keep rate of expansion at below 20%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY'S broad money supply slowed down for the third consecutive month in July to hit 19.7 percent following the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' intensified mopping-up operations.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said on Friday that the slower expansion in the money liquidity in July compared to the 20.1 percent growth in the previous month was a result of the monetary measures introduced by the BSP in May, when it strengthened its special deposit facilities as a tool to mop up excess cash in the system.

Domestic liquidity or M3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to measure the entire money supply in an economy. It includes cash in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term securities held by households.

On a month-on-month basis excluding seasonality factors, domestic liquidity or M3 also rose to a slower pace of 0.7 percent in July versus 1.2 percent in June.

"The slowdown in the domestic money emphasized the growth in domestic liquidity which continues to be driven mainly by the steady rise in net foreign assets," Tetangco said.

He said the year-on-year growth of net domestic assets decelerated to 9.4 percent in July from 11.6 percent in June while the growth of net foreign assets went up to 29.8 percent from 27.1 percent for the same period.

Credit extended to the public sector expanded to a slightly faster pace of 18.7 percent from 18.3 percent in June, while credit to the private sector grew more briskly during the period by 17.2 percent from 6 percent.

"Policy measures to absorb liquidity are expected to keep net growth at a manageable level, contributing to the overall benign inflation outlook," Tetangco said.

"The BSP will remain vigilant so that price stability is maintained and the upward trajectory of economic growth is sustained," he said.

This is line with the DSP's expectations that GDP growth would rise below the 20 percent in the months ahead.

Excessive liquidity growth, which could stoke inflation, was tempered by recent measures implemented by the BSP to mop up excess supply.

Last May the BSP transformed its previously underutilized SDA facility into a more potent tool. Under the new rules on SDA, even the banks' trust departments and non-bank quasi-corporations can place funds with the BSP.

To make the SDAs more attractive, the BSP has made these instruments eligible as compliance to the banks' 20 percent liquidity requirements, or the portions of deposits and deposit substitutes required to be held in the form of negotiable and marketable government securities.

# ests $3M in R&D

...ure, the three best varieties ...e recommended for propaga... ...ational plantations.

...ocial peopha mentor that PNOC ... already named included those ... General Aurora City, Davao ... Batangas, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, ...ainabos list and Batangas.

"I was being too aggressive in ...ecting the project because we ... for profit oriented. Liuspha ...ea and refineries require huge ...ea, so we don't want to jan... ...ea this rainbow the assurance ... victory we'll propagate will ... the highest yield," Abaya said.

Banks of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and Philippine National Bank (PNB) have ...ed funds for farmers ...ner groups wanting to establish ... plantations and even debt ...ervice and other facilities.

...ancing window was the result ... memorandum of agreement ... ...tween Landbank and PNOC-AFC which was signed last week.

Under the agreement, Landbank would provide loans to qualified farmers or farmer groups wanting to venture into jatropha-related activities, including the establishment of plantations and refineries.

PNOC-AFC will help identify prospective jatropha growers who can avail themselves of financing from Landbank. It will identify prospective plantation sites, conduct technical validation on the sustainability of the area and other technical aspects needed in jatropha nursery production and plantation development.

It will assist into production, technical and marketing agreements with farmers, farmer groups, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises, corporations and other qualified entities for jatropha biodiesel-related projects.

PNOC-AFC will also oversee any major jatropha seed buys to secure growers of a steady and viable market for their harvests.

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# US Fed pledges to contain effect of credit crunch

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush talks about easing the mortgage default crisis once in US Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson Jr. in the Rose Garden of the White House. REUTERS

## Bush unveils broad measures to help homeowners

WASHINGTON—FEDERAL RESERVE chair Ben Bernanke pledged Friday to limit the spillover of a credit crunch on broader economy as the White House unveiled aid to homeowners facing foreclosure.

The two separate announcements were aimed at curbing contagion from a housing crisis that some fear could derail the US economic expansion.

Bernanke, in his first public remarks since global markets were roiled by fears of a liquidity crisis, said the Fed wants to avoid "further tightening of credit conditions" which could have "adverse effects on consumer spending and the economy more generally."

Markets viewed the remarks as opening the door to a potential interest rate cut that could lower overall borrowing costs and stimulate credit markets.

Stephen Gallagher, economist at Societe Generale in New York, said the Fed "continues to embrace the market with rough love, but will do what is necessary," including a cut to the federal funds rate if necessary, on September 18.

Some analysts argue that Bernanke does not want to be too quick to cut rates, for fears of sparking inflation and being seen as bailing out investors who made risky bets.

But Robert DiClemente, economist at Citigroup, said he believes that "the speed and magnitude by which the overall financial setting has deteriorated are considerably more than what ... data [on] policy cannot action."

Meanwhile, President George W. Bush outlined a series of actions aimed at averting foreclosure for distressed homeowners, many of whom are having a crisis as adjustable-rate mortgages are reset to reflect higher rates.

The measures announced by Bush would allow homeowners with a good credit history, but who cannot afford their current payments, to refinance into federally insured mortgages, likely at lower rates.

He also encouraged lenders to try to work out payment arrangements with financially strapped homeowners and urged Congress to pass solutions to rebel measures.

Homeowner analysts said the measures would only affect a small fraction of the estimated two million homeowners facing foreclosure.

Bush insisted the federal government has only a "limited" role to play in helping millions of people now struggling to meet their home loans amid rising interest rates and was not promoting "reckless bailouts."

Bernanke, speaking at a Fed symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, did not directly speak about the next move on interest rates, but appeared to be aiming to allay revisions that the Fed would do nothing to prevent a broader credit crunch that drags down the economy. AFP

## GE sells plastics business to Saudi firm for $11.6B

SMITHTOWN, CONNECTICUT—GENERAL Electric Co. closed an $11.6 billion (roughly 480 billion) sale of its plastics division on Friday, taking the final step in the long-anticipated divestiture.

The sale to petrochemicals manufacturer Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (Sabic) is part of the Fairfield-based conglomerate's strategy of selling slower growth and volatile businesses such as insurance, and invest in high-growth, high-technology businesses, such as health care and water processing technology.

Sabic is one of the world's 10 largest petrochemicals manufacturers.

The company is among the world's market leaders in the production of polyethylene, polypropylene and other advanced thermoplastics, glycols, methanol and derivatives, as well as the fourth-largest polycarbonate producer.

The deal is expected to create for GE a net gain, after taxes, of $3.3 billion (roughly 1.39 billion).

GE will use the proceeds of the sale to complete its current $27 billion (nearly 11 billion) stock buyback program, with $12 billion (nearly 5 billion) of the $14 billion (nearly 5.12 billion) planned for 2007 in the second half of this year.

The GE unit supplied plastic resins to the automotive, health care and consumer electronics industries.

It has been weighed down by the rising costs of natural gas and raw materials since 2004.

Profits for the division fell by 22 percent to $671 million (nearly 95 million) in 2006.

Sabic intends to expand the business globally and is not planning to cut jobs, company officials said.

The plastics division is a $6.6 billion (roughly 4.02 billion) global supplier of plastic resins used in automotive, health care, consumer electronics, transportation, building and construction, telecommunications, and optical media.

Based in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, it employs 10,500 people in 66 locations worldwide.

GE's plastics division dates to 1930, according directly from Thomas Edison's experiments with plastic filaments for light bulbs in the 1890s.

It grew into a significant GE venture where Jeff Immelt, president and chief executive, began his GE career. AP

## *Wall Street to focus on jobs report*

NEW YORK—WITH RENEWED optimism of a Federal Reserve interest rate cut, Wall Street will begin a holiday-shortened week Tuesday with eyes turned toward a labor market report.

The major indices ended relatively flat after a week of volatile trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.36 percent from the prior week to finish at 13,357.74 points. Friday saw the tech index Nasdaq rise 0.70 percent to 2,546.36 points.

The broad market Standard & Poor's 500 index ended 0.16 percent lower than a week ago, at 1,473.99 points.

The market overheard stories of turbulence due to a credit crunch that originated in the high-risk subprime mortgage sector, where lenders offer home loans to people with shaky credit.

Investors are worrying about the unknown extent of the economic damage from the credit fallout.

Counting on the Federal Reserve to ease monetary policy and soothe the markets, investors finally were reassured Friday by a speech by Fed chair Ben Bernanke and measures to help distressed homeowners unveiled by President George W. Bush.

Bernanke's speech, to a Fed symposium in Wyoming, "was the statement the market wanted to hear," said Mari Rule, an analyst at Ceres Financial.

Bush's "wasn't exciting, but it was reassuring," he added.

But Stephen Gallagher of Societe Generale, Bernanke's remarks "validate expectations the Fed will do what is necessary to ensure order and liquidity in the repaid markets."

Investors also found reassurance on Friday from comments from Bush, who unveiled measures aimed at helping subprime borrowers avoid foreclosure and softening the blow of the subprime crisis on the overall economy.

"US equity markets moved up somewhat unusually late week, as economic indicators from August were relatively mixed for the week, while key speeches from President Bush and Fed chair Bernanke on Friday reassured investors to the effect that policymakers were alert to the looming issues in the housing and credit markets," wrote Global Insight analysts Brian Bethune and Nigel Gault.

Connor Fitzgerald's Daily predicted "a temporary relief rally" from volatility this week, ahead of the next Fed interest-rate meeting on September 18.

The markets are closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday, which honors American workers.

Next week's market will be noteworthy for the release of the August employment report next Friday, expected to show a modest growth in job creations, analysts said.

"If there is one thing that gets the Fed to move one way or the other on rates" it is the jobs market, "because it is a leading indicator of the state of the economy, Poole said. AFP

## Climate change breakthroughs not expected at Apec meeting

BANGKOK, THAILAND—BREAKTHROUGH on greenhouse gas reductions are unlikely at this week's summit of Asia-Pacific leaders, environmentalists and diplomats said, though high-level discussions could shape future climate change agreements.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum is expected to call for major pollutors to develop "economically and verifiable" commitments on meeting shared global goals," according to a draft declaration on climate change circulated by the environmental group Greenpeace and viewed by The Associated Press.

It makes no mention of emissions targets, instead calling for voluntary measures to promote the use of renewable energy, better protection and increased spending on cleaner forms of energy like wind and nuclear power.

### Empty strategy

Environmentalists have already condemned the agreement as an empty strategy.

But any consensus reached by leaders of APEC's 21 members—which together are about 40 percent of global energy and include six of the top 10 carbon emitters in the United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea and Canada—could influence talks at a UN conference in December in Bali, Indonesia that will begin to chart the course for a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

"If the Sydney declaration goes beyond diplomatic niceties, then it could shift the global debate on the framework for what the successor agreement to Kyoto would be," said Malcolm Cook, Asia-Pacific program director at Australian think tank the Lowy Institute.

The APEC leaders are supposed to sign off on a climate change declaration at their Sept. 8-9 summit.

### Voluntary measures

Some APEC delegates acknowledge it would be counterproductive to push for targets at the forum.

It shrives on voluntary measures, they said, and is missing key players including India, Brazil and the European Union.

"We think it is appropriate not to mandate any targets on the reduction emission issue," said Marichat Phesai, a member of Thailand's APEC delegation.

"This is best left to the UN process because it's the main framework for that," he said. "It is a process framework, although it could be more efficient. If you try and set up something, I'm not sure whether the non-APEC members would join it."

Kyoto requires 35 industrial nations to cut their global-warming emissions 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. The US and Australia are the only industrialized nations not to sign Kyoto.

The EU wants a post-Kyoto agreement to limit global temperature rises at 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees F) above the levels of the preindustrial era. The EU, Canada and Japan have endorsed a 50 percent emissions reduction by 2050 to meet that goal and avoid the worst effects of global warming.

The US and Australia have opposed mandatory cuts and maintain that developing nations such as China, India and Brazil must be included in any pact.

China and India join signs against caps, saying it would impede their economic growth.

"I don't want to single China out, but China has got a major role to play" US President George W. Bush told reporters in Washington in a briefing on APEC.

"Any agreement without China is not going to be an effective agreement. So my strategy has been to get China at the table."

### New approach

Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a harsh critic of Kyoto and former global warming skeptic, has put climate change at the top of the agenda at APEC, a year after the issue got only a passing mention in the group's final communique.

Howard says APEC could help design a new approach to climate change that will include developing as well as developed economies, and would allow flexibility depending on a country's development, and emphasize technological solutions.

APEC proposes to create a network to R. nance research and developmental into renewable energy and energy efficiency, and to increase forest cover in the APEC region to 20 million hectares (49.4 million acres).

Greenpeace spokesperson Ben Pearson said the APEC draft declaration confirms that "Howard and Bush want to use the upcoming APEC meeting to derail international negotiations on combating and strengthening the Kyoto Protocol on climate change." AP

# GMA declares Nasugbu a special tourism zone

## Group formed to oversee development of municipality into a prime destination

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Regional Southern Luzon

BATANGAS CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has declared Nasugbu, a first class municipality in Batangas known for its white-sand beach resorts, a special tourism zone.

Executive Order 647 signed on August 1 likewise called for the formation of a private sector led "Nasugbu resident persons group" to oversee the development of the Nasugbu Special Tourism Zone.

The SEEZ will cover the areas included in the Nasugbu Tourism Development Plan, which was prepared by the municipal government and validated by the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).

The order gave the PTA administrative and control functions over the zone, in coordination with the resident persons group and the municipal government.

"Consistent with the avowed policy of the state to promote tourism in the country, the sustainable development of Nasugbu, Batangas as a priority tourism destination is hereby declared," Ms Arroyo said in her order.

Nasugbu, a 27,750-hectare coastal town, located 100 kilometers southwest of Manila, is a favorite leisure and vacation getaway, especially during summer.

It is subdivided into 42 villages, with a population of 96,558 based on the 2000 census.

The town's white sand beaches and virgin tropical forests have attracted a group of real estate developers like the SM Investments Corp. (SMIC), which plans to construct a 5,000-hectare resort, the Hamilo Coast, in the 2008.

Within the property is Mt. Pico de Loro, a national park and a favorite hiking and mountaineering site.

SM also intends to mount a ferry service de-

HT. PICO de Loro is one of Nasugbu's main attractions.

parting from the Manila Bay terminal of the SM Central Business Park in the Mall of Asia to Hamilo Coast, due to be operational by 2008.

President Arroyo's order ensured that the government will plan, undertake, and cause the implementation of support projects and programs to preserve the ecological features of Nasugbu, Batangas as a major tourism destination.

The order said that the functions of the lead non-eminent persons group will include recommending to the PTA the rules necessary to ensure compliance with Nasugbu tourism's sustainable development program.

The order tasked the group to ensure the preservation of the town's natural and cultural heritage and to get the locals to take part in the development effort.

# Businessmen urged to invest in Luzon

By Amy S. Barra

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority has urged local businessmen to invest in North Luzon given the great growth potential of its manufacturing and mining resources.

During the North Luzon Area Business Conference held in La Union recently, Neda officer in charge Augusto B. Santos told businessmen to take the area to take advantage of the opportunities presented by its location, natural resources and development such as the super regions.

"North Luzon has a huge potential because of its wide marine and fishery resources and vast deposits of metallic and nonmetallic resources," Santos said.

Investors can also take advantage of North Luzon's strategic location. It can serve as the country's gateway to Taiwan and Southern China.

"These are markets waiting for your products. The coastal areas can inevitably be export centers with the seven ports and airports," Santos told the local businessmen.

Santos also urged businessmen to take advantage of other opportunities spelled out in the "super region" thrust of the government.

The government had grouped provinces into four super regions, namely the Luzon Urban Beltway, North Luzon Quadrangle, Quadrangle Central Philippines and Mindanao super region.

North Luzon is covered by the NLAQ, headed by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

NLAQ is composed of Cordillera, Ilocos, and Cagayan as well as parts of Central Luzon such as Nueva Ecija, Subic and Zambales.

With agribusiness as its current development thrust, the NLAQ super region produces 26 percent of the country's rice supply, 65 percent of vegetables and holds 37 percent of the Philippines' rice potential.

# Copra prices drop in Eastern Visayas

By Jaqy A. Gubaira
Regional Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE PRICE of copra in Eastern Visayas has dropped due to lower demand in the world market.

Philippine Coconut Authority regional director Edilberto Sicaya said here recently that the price of copra has dropped from a high of P37 a kilo to about P22 a kilo in August.

Sicaya said the drop in the price was caused by the decreasing demand for copra in the world market and the high cost of shipment to other countries.

Oil produced from copra or desiccated coconut meat is processed into cooking oil, and also used as a raw material in the manufacturing of such products as soap and cosmetics.

But Sicaya said the region's more than 1.7 million coconut farmers have nothing to fear as the government expects prices to soon increase.

He said farmers should only begin to worry when the price reaches the critical level of P10 a kilo.

Eastern Visayas is the country's leading copra producer and the industry accounts for around 40 percent of the region's economy.

Last year, the region generated $57 million from copra exports.

Sicaya said the PCA also continues to assist coconut farmers, such as by arranging more investors to come in the region as this would help lessen impact of lower copra prices in the world market.

"At present, 60 percent of our coconut production is exported to other countries while only 20 percent is used domestically. We want this trend to reverse with 80 percent going in the local market and only 20 percent sold abroad," Sicaya said.

"Even our eight oil mill plants now operating in different parts of Eastern Visayas, but their expansion is still below the region's annual copra production of 375,000 metric tons.

Sicaya said these oil millers take in just over 200,000 metric tons a year.


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ACTIVITIES and PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

Sept. 5, 2007 (Wednesday)
Sept. 6, 2007 (Thursday)
Sept. 7, 2007 (Friday)
Sept. 8, 2007 (Saturday)

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
Grand Barista Cup Competition
Nestle Ice Cream Scoopathon
Favorite Restaurant and Cafe Recipes Decoding the Chef's Secrets

SUPPORTERS: Office of the President of the Philippines • Office of the Vice President of the Philippines • Senate of the Philippines • Department of Agriculture • Department of Trade & Industry • Department of Tourism • Department of Science & Technology • Philippine Coconut Authority • Bureau of Agricultural Affairs • Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry • Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. • Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. • Philippine Association of Supermarkets, Inc. • Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. • Philippine Association of Flavor and Fragrance Industry, Inc. • Philippine Association of the Philippines • Coca-Cola Export Corporation • Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation • Philippine Franchise Association • Philippine Retailers Association • Makati Business Club • Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Inc. • Philippine Association of Flour Millers • Philippine Bakery Association • Philippine Confectionery Association • Philippine Association of Feed Millers • Philippine Association of Meat Processors

# 50 years of the Social Security System Improving the lives of Filipinos

The SSS marks its Golden Anniversary with the theme, "Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman"

**On September 1, 2007, the SSS celebrated its 50th Anniversary with the theme, "SSS – Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman". No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shall be the keynote speaker during the SSS Anniversary Program on September 3, 2007 at the SSS Main Office in Quezon City.**

Other Golden Anniversary activities of SSS include medical outreach programs, information seminars, and job fairs in its district branches during the week prior to the Anniversary (August 27-31), a grand homecoming of past SSS officers and employees on September 1 at the SSS Members Assistance Center (MAC) in Quezon City and a medical dental mission for Metro Manila-based members on September 3, also at the MAC. There will also be a Pensioners' Day Program at the SSS Hall of Fame for Metro Manila-based pensioners on September 5, which will be held simultaneously in selected SM Malls nationwide (Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, and Iloilo).

The 'anniversary theme highlights the ninth decimal rule of SSS: Kaagapay, a partner of government and private enterprises in spurring economic and business growth; Kaibigan, a friend that every working Filipino member can turn to in times of need; and Kabalikat, a shoulder of support for families of members in realizing their dreams of a better life. The theme also gives emphasis on the impact of SSS, its benefits, and services on the lives of its over 27 million members here and abroad. It celebrates the life of SSS as an ally of all working Filipinos, a strong shoulder upon which they can rely, as they build the foundation for a better life for themselves, their families, and for the nation.

For the past five decades, the SSS has proven to become a dependable partner of the Filipino worker and his family. It has provided financial support to times of need and its investments have helped spur the Philippine economy. Through the years, as its coverage expanded and its programs developed and increased, the SSS evolved into an organization capable of servicing its members' nationwide and in key cities overseas. In the past years, the SSS overcame many obstacles that tested its resiliency and strengthened its foundation. More importantly, as Filipinos increasingly crossed international boundaries in search for more lucrative employment in the global market, the SSS followed suit to make sure that wherever members may be, they can count on the SSS' swords of protection.

## Today's stewards of the pension fund

## Message

Welcome Address
Manila

Warmest felicitations to the Social Security System (SSS) on your 50th Founding Anniversary!

When the SSS began limited operations on September 1, 1957, it entered the homes and experiences of Filipino workers for a better life, a life free or secure from the medical and financial distress brought about by sickness, childbirth, disability, old age, and death. Through initially questioned if not rejected outright, by some sectors of society when it was first implemented, the SSS Law, through the years, has proven its worth as an instrument for government to attain social justice and economic well-being for its citizenry.

Today, the SSS stands as an half-century mark as a strong and progressive institution – one which workers and employers alike trust as their partner in improving lives and building dreams. To the government, the SSS continues to be an ally in ensuring economic stability.

Congratulations to the Social Security Commission, headed by Chairman Dickson Y. Cuaunan, SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon S. de la Paz, and to the panel, staff and retirees of SSS on your 50th Anniversary. Tunay ngang ika-kaya ng Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman!

Mabuhay ang SSS! Mabuhay ang (unfortunately illegible)!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

## SSS to hold 50th Anniversary dental-medical mission

# SSS, 50 Years of faithful Service to the Nation

Over the years, SSS has remained true to its mandate of providing meaningful protection to members and their families against the hazards of disability, sickness, maternity, old-age and death.

Amidst the many challenges that SSS was faced with in the past years, it has kept its promise of paying timely and meaningful benefits in times of members' contingencies.

Aside from providing a "safety net" for members through pensions and allowances, SSS has also provided opportunities to members, especially low-income earners through livelihood, low-cost housing, and other lending programs.

SSS has remained a partner of government and private enterprises in spurring economic and business growth; a loyal friend that every Filipino can turn to in times of need; and a shoulder of support for families in realizing their dreams of a better life.

SSS shall hold true to its vow of dependable social security protection for Filipinos not just for today but for always.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Kaagapay, Kaibigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman



To the

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

CONGRATULATIONS

On your

50th GOLDEN Anniversary!

**Good news!**

**Effective September 2007, SSS Pensions will be available thru Chinatrust VISA Cash Card.**

Chinatrust

# Congratulations to SSS on its Golden Anniversary!

## Postage stamps commemorate SSS 50th Anniversary

The launching of the SSS Commemorative Stamps is one of the significant events to mark the 50th Anniversary of the institution. The stamps, which highlight the role that the late President Ramon Magsaysay played in the establishment of the SSS, were also designed as a fitting tribute to the "People's President". President Magsaysay is known as the "Father of Social Security", as it was during his administration when the original Social Security Act of 1954, also known as Republic Act 1161, was signed into law on June 18, 1954.

The commemorative stamps carry four designs. The first is a picture of a family which embodies the SSS' Golden Anniversary theme of "Kanggaro, Kabigan, Kabalikat Magpakailanman". The second is a portrait of President Magsaysay, while the third shows a photo of the President as he signed Republic Act 1161 into law. As witnessed by the law's authors. The last stamp design is a portrait of the landmark SSS building and the 50th anniversary logo.

The stamp's cancellation or official issuance for circulation, was held on August 31, 2007, which was also the Centenary of President Ramon Magsaysay's birth.

People, Events & Products

# Director's Club at SM Mall of Asia

IM CINEMA, IN COOPERAtion with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, recently launched the IM Mall of Asia's Director's Club which was attended by Inquirer's top advertisers.

Among those present were Solar Sports Entertainment president Wilson Tieng, United International Pictures general manager Sebina Escobio-de Venecia with Nicole Castillo, St. Luke's Medical Center's Christine Limsiong, Cebu Pacific's Charlie Mafio, Toyota Batong Isla, Mitsubishi's Riel Dizon, Inquirer VP Nina R. Bottoon, Inquirer VP Digna B. Chavez, Inquirer Classified Ads MIF Jess Reboniilla, and Inquirer sales officer Myleen de Jesus.

Other guests who attended the launch were Puff Circle Communications's Paul and Milbee de Quiroz, Globe Telecom's James Campos, and Penshoppe's Gigi Tiu and Arnold Salinido. They were welcomed by IM VP for marketing Willie Chiong, IMCVP for Leisure Inc Ric Camalig an, IMC's regional operation's manager Steven Tan, and center manager Ivi Ann Leslie Go.

Hosting honors in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were AM Prime Holding's President Hans Sy, Solar Sports Entertainment president Wilson Tieng, IM VP for leisure Ric Camalig an and United International Pictures general manager Sebina Escobio-de Venecia.

Capping the event was the screening of "The Bourne Ultimatum", a 2007 film based loosely on Robert Ludlum's novel of the same name. It sequel to "The Bourne Supremacy", it stars Matt Damon reprising his role as Ludlum's eponymous character, amnesiac suffering CIA assassin Jason Bourne.

Can you imagine a cozy cinema that's all your own? Director's Club is an all-inclusive venue to treat family and friends. It has 30 plush and fully reclining La Z Boy armchairs with side tables, cozy lavatories and lounge, superb sound system with a movie library of movie titles.

Invite your family, friends and business colleagues to a screening spectacular for your choice of event, corporate events, conferences, meetings, presentations, product launches, seminars and symposiums. Director's Club is the right place to hold your choice of events.

Or you can choose your own favorite movie. Duets action, adventure, comedy, drama, romance or suspense. Seats include power library for a treat to your family and friends.

Every rental goes with 50 regular popcorn and 50 regular size drinks and one of the Lobby Lounge.

For bookings and more inquiries, call the Hall of Asia Cinema Office at 556-8304 or 556-2314 or e-mail Director's Club@smmoviemalls.com or records@smcinemas.com.

Director's Club is located at the second Floor of the Entertainment Bldg of SM Mall of Asia.

## SMC JOINS GAWAD KALINGA'S SIBOL PROGRAM

# BUSINESS

## DOT steps up drive to lure visitors to Visayas

By Bernie W. Dorotan

MG TRUST TOURISM ACCOM...modation projects in the Visayas are helping make the region the tourism corridor that President Macapagal-Arroyo described in her State of the Nation Address in 2005.

According to the Department of Tourism, these projects include the $500-million Cebu Ayala Village at the Shangri-La Mactan in Cebu; $50-million expansion of a hotel in Bohol and the newly opened Iloilo International Airport.

Existing facilities and attractions, however, are already enough to position the central islands as a tourism super region through the Philippine Travel Exchange 2007 trade fair slated this week in Cebu.

Phitex 2007 project manager Noe Macinas said in a statement that the event, which would be held at the Cebu International Convention Center on Sept. 5-6, was expected to host 250 of the world's biggest foreign buyers of travel packages.

At the same time, 67 local seller companies would take part in Phitex 2007, including 54 hotels and resorts, three airlines, 28 tour operators and two convention facilities.

"The DOT itself and other new tourism infrastructure and facilities in the region are expected to gain much of the international attention," Macinas said.

"Central Philippines makes a good representation of the main tourism image as a multidiscovered tropical paradise of 7,107 islands, since the region itself is more characterized by island destinations than the mainlands of Luzon and Mindanao," she added.

Macinas said this year's Phitex...the 7th in a series of yearly gatherings of foreign and local industry players...features pre-scheduled and one-on-one business meetings between buyers and sellers, and pre- and post-event tours for the visitors who will market the Philippines in their respective countries.

In a separate statement, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said European buyers accounted for 26 of some 120 groups that have confirmed to join Phitex 2007.

"These major of seven such from France and Germany, five from the Czech Republic, one each from the United Kingdom and Poland, three from Sweden, and two from Hungary," Durano said.

He said other foreign delegations include 35 from Russia and China, 14 from Hong Kong, nine from Singapore, 10 from Japan, four from North America and India and three from Australia.

### Shangri-La leads list of investors putting money in region

**TAX MAN** Customs Commissioner Napoleon L. Morales shares with the Subpanel Sectoral Staff from the Bureau of Customs plans to meet its collection target this year of P328.3 billion.

## New Meralco rate system OKd

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION has approved the Manila Electric Co.'s application to set rates using the performance-based rate making (PBR) methodology.

Under this new method approved last Aug. 31, the country's largest private electricity distributor will be able to charge rates based partly on projected investments and operating expenses related to the distribution of electricity.

The PBR method replaces the 86-year-old return on rate base (RORB) scheme, where rates are computed based on the assets used in generating electricity and a profit margin for the utility.

Meralco wanted a new system in place because under the RORB scheme, the utility does not get the return that it is allowed because the rates are based on historical data.

But by using the PBR methodology, Meralco expects faster recovery of costs incurred in providing electricity service.

Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said earlier that the PBR method would be more beneficial in the long run as it would allow regular and faster rate recoveries, doing away with the "regulatory lag" associated with the recovery of a distribution utility's costs, particularly those related to power supply and currency exchange rate.

"The procedure is, since you have agreed on the operating expenses and capital expenditures, the ERC will already calculate the rate adjustment that will grant the utility its desired return. That is going to be given to you regularly or every year," he added.

How the new scheme will impact on consumers monthly electricity bills, however, will not be known until Meralco submits its computation to the ERC.

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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroz-Espiritu

BANKING ON BIRDS AND TREES SHOW POSITIVE RESULTS

Investing in the American South-inspired Georgia Club are rewarded by the year-round presence of majestic trees and exotic birds. Easily accessible at Santa Rosa, Laguna, near main thoroughfares and commercial areas.

Business Forecasts Going South

Following the analysis of the White-Colored Kingfisher—last seen among the 62 bird species found on the property—business takes a turn towards choosing American South chandeliers and good old Southern wines.

The bird you see at Georgia Club, with lot packages' amortization on line at P13,300.00*

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# Tree planting is in

## Filipinos more environment conscious, says Figaro

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Tree planting has become more popular than ever these days because of the adverse impact of climate change on agriculture.

This phenomenon has helped push the organic coffee campaign over the past few months, according to Pavita Juan, president of the Figaro Coffee Foundation.

But while ordinary tree planting "no longer everyone's guilt," Juan says many farmers have also realized that coffee plantations provide a vital economic backbone to the re-greening movement because of the demand for quality coffee beans.

### Crusade

Juan was last month to sign a second agreement with the Benguet State University to embark on an organic coffee crop R & D program, which will hopefully lead to the birth of the country's first organic coffee brand.

FIGARO officials are on a campaign to get Benguet coffee farmers to go organic.

BUILT Ford TOUGH

It is, undisputedly, the toughest pick-up out there, as proven by the recently concluded Fearless Ford Ranger Extreme Drive. From the slippery slopes of Luzon to the far-flung trails of Mindanao, the Fearless Ford Ranger pulled through without fail, conquering obstacles both on and off the road. With its best-in-class features—powerful Duratorq 3.0D engine, proven 4x4 capability, and Anti-lock Braking System with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, imagine what it's make of everyday challenges.

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# INFOTECH

# At 103 inches, plasma TV dwarfs all else

VIEWING on screen or large-than-life images with Panasonic's gigantic plasma display

By Raquel P Gomez

IS BIGGER REALLY BETTER? Panasonic proved that this is the case when it unveiled its 103-inch plasma display panel featuring more than two million pixels resolutions at the Siyentsya Iseargration Philippines Expo held recently at the World Trade Center.

Valued at 75 million plus and described as "Panasonic's pinnacle of achievement," the 103-inch plasma display panel is currently the largest commercially available plasma display in the world, according to Panasonic executives.

Introduced in the country last May, the 103-inch plasma display has been acquired by a couple of private users, who placed the humongous screens in their living rooms, according to Patrick Yap, Panasonic services manager.

Worldwide sales for this big plasma display panel with a hefty price tag have reached 1,500 units to 2006. Panasonic targets 5,000 units worldwide for this year.

Because of its super size, Panasonic's 103-inch plasma display is also targeted for companies who wish to advertise their brands or products in commercial areas like hotels or establishments.

Panasonic has already started to digital signage business, tapping into its range of plasma display panels.

"It's designed for advertisers to use plasma display panels for digital signage versus television commercials," says Paz.

Standing at 105 centimeters with a width of 229 centimeters, Panasonic's 103-inch plasma display panel produces full high-definition HDTV resolution of 1,920 x 1080 performance with a 261 cm visible diagonal screen.

Paz says 10 to 12 people are needed to transport and install the display.

But since this country has yet to go HD format to TV broadcast, Paz suggests the use of set-to-be introduced in the country like set-top boxes and blu ray discs for the 103-inch plasma display panel for a full satisfaction of a truly high definition (HD) experience.

Truly this is the biggest and costliest TV set.

# 'Watchout' for high impact presentations

By Rina T. Olchondra

A MULTI-DISPLAY PRODUCTION and presentation technology called Watchout to save existing the bar on presentations, be it for corporate presentations or public demos.

The technology behind Watchout combines multiple projectors or other display devices with standard computers (PC or Macintosh) and network technologies to create presentations of virtually any size.

It can also combine various video formats, adjusting each one's resolution so that the resulting presentation looks as if it is coming from just one giant projector.

"It is perfect for those who want high impact presentations, said Rhet Miranda, president of Video Image Corporate Communications, one of the country's most in-demand production companies.

"With Watchout, we no longer have to worry about image size and resolution," Miranda said. "We can now work with just about any screen configurations without sacrificing video and audio capability."

"The Philippine market is ready for Watchout. The take-up is extremely limited in existing big companies that have the marketing and advertising budget to burn. But we are also trying to increase awareness on Watchout's uses for public spaces, say, in modern art installations in museums and presentations in restaurants."

Miranda said he is now fixing to acquire, costing Miranda's company "millions."

Hence, it is also ironic that presentations for small footy screens and tiny (and) clutterized production, but Miranda says companies that have tried it always come back for more.

Miranda explains that the high-impact presentations created on a large canvas or in unique layouts such as video cubes or 360-degree screens are actually much cheaper than spending on elaborate stage presentations with audio-video equipment, backdrops, props, combined with live performers.

"It's because the end-product is much more impressive, more flexible in blending live and pre-recorded materials," Miranda said. "Clients usually save on commercials but they can use more than once."

Watchout can be used with plasma, monitors or video rules to fully a unique presentation set or with video projectors for giant, seamless panoramas for screens as large as 76x125, 16x256 or 240x48 ft.

## Production

Watchout reads most media file formats for still images, video and audio. Produce text and images in Photoshop. Producers can create and edit video in any resolution in After Effects, Final Cut or similar software. Use multiple stereo or surround sound audio files.

Watchout brings it all together, adding real-time effects such as motion paths, opacity, scaling, rotation, colorization, cropping, splitting image, distribution and rubrics.

"With Watchout, we can create projects or corners without distortion," Miranda explains. "If needed, we can warp the projection around the whole venue."

The production computer uses a timeline interface to build or show files. Purchase the media files through the network to the display computers during the presentation.

Each screen needs one projector or display computer. As more screens are added, presenters need to add more CPUs to drive those displays.

## Presentation

Watchout combines multiple projectors, or other display devices, with standard computer and network technology to create presentations of virtually any size.

When the show runs, the production computer distributes the media files through the network of computer-controlled presenters.

The system utilizes the full resolution of existing projectors, monitors, video wall cubes or LEDs, resulting in a seamless image with the best resolution available. Overlapping projectors are automatically edge-blended. Watchout accounts for the gap between displays and allows for mixing of different pixel densities.

Projectors, monitors, video wall cubes or LEDs can be arranged at any angle, shape or form. Overlapping projectors are automatically edge-blended. Watchout accounts for the gap between displays and allows you to mix different pixel densities. The built-in mesh-warping geometry correction handles curved screens with ease.

Watchout can integrate live video feed from a video camera and accepts anything from composite and S-Video to 720 and 1080 HDmI using SDI inputs, all with the lowest possible latency. Bring in a live Power Point presentation, or another computer feed straight into the wide-screen presentation, with no problems.

The system connects to touch panels such as TouchScreen, and other control systems, using TCP/IP, SMPTE timecode or serial data connections. This allows multiple display clusters at museums or other venues where independent display areas are needed. Built-in remote management functions allow interaction between the display computers.

Watchout can also use a Pickup audio guide that adds personalized audio playback to the presentation. This is perfect for use at museums and such, or locations where individual, wireless or multi-lingual audio is required. Pickup provides high quality, audio playback for audio guide applications, while also taking a cue from Watchout for synchronized sound.

## One-stop shop

Video Image has been in the local advertising and corporate communication industry for 25 years and continues to grow internationally to meet the demand of the global market. It is one of the few production houses, if not the only one, who has installed its own broadcast product such as Watchout. It operates a post-production facility that can be utilized as a backdrop, a giant outdoor billboard, or theatre-size video screen.

In the pipeline are the introduction of another video presentation technology that is close source servers and the latest alternative to electronic tape mastering, an easy-use CD-ROM mastering.

Being a one-stop shop, Video Image's in-house facilities allows it to venture into ancillary businesses such as equipment and studio rental (both to client-clients and to suppliers), video tape format conversion and transfers, sound track production, computer graphics animation and video coverages.

In the United States, the Rite Aid Pharmacy chain of 3000 stores into a visual feast.

PHILAM Life (above) is one of the first Philippine financial institutions to evoke use of the WATCHOUT projection system during its recent 60th anniversary celebrations. Below, AVWorx's annual meeting in the UK becomes a spectacle in itself.

## *Broadband providers should up capacity, says Globe*

BROADBAND PROVIDERS WILL NEED about four times more capacity for Internet-based services by next year, Globe Telecom Inc said.

Company officials believe that this is because more businesses and individuals are demanding undisrupted connectivity even during calamities, such as the recent earthquake off Taiwan.

"For the past two years we have been pressured for bandwidth double every six months," broadband and landline product head Rodrigo Reyes said. "Last year our first half subscription for broadband was around 45,000, and now it's around 60,000. It normally's be saying the if that's the trend, [then] ..."

Consumer broadband group head Ramon Antonio Pineda said Globe is willing to quadruple its capacity to meet ongoing demand for Internet-dependent activities.

Globe recently doubled the available bandwidth for heavy Internet users and introduced a residential wireless broadband package that runs on 3G.

The company's 768 kbps plan for wired Internet-only connection is now there on 1.5 Mbps, for the same monthly fee of P999. The 1-Mbps broadband plan also comes with free 60 minutes of Wi-Fi and an e-mail account with 100 MB of space.

There is also a 2 Mbps Internet-only plan for P1,995 a month. It comes with 120 Wi-Fi minutes and three e-mail accounts of 500 MB each.

For Internet-and-landline bundles, the lowest bandwidth is 384 kbps, with 30 Wi-Fi minutes and a 50 MB e-mail account for P995 a month.

There is a 1-Mbps package with 60 Wi-Fi minutes and a 100 MB e-mail account for P1,295 a month. Globe also introduced for this segment a 2 Mbps package with 120 Wi-Fi minutes and three 100 MB email accounts for P1,595.

For 2G plans, the maximum speed is 512 kbps. The Internet-only plan goes for P995 a month. Globe has also throw in a landline for customers willing to fork out P1,295 a month.

"We are also working with IT companies, such as Intel and Microsoft, for computer-bundled packages," Pineda said.

Globe earlier signed up as the exclusive landing party for the trans-Pacific cable project spearheaded by VSNL International, a member of the Tata Group of India, which will link Asia directly to the US through an undersea cable system.

The land arbo disclosed that it was spending P9 billion for the cable system. Ideal Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., on the other hand, is investing in a separate undersea cable system and is also offering broadband plans.

By Rina T. Olchondra

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# No bargaining with safety in RP malls

## Retail firms invest in fire prevention, security equipment to protect shoppers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MALLS AND OTHER RETAIL establishments are always confronted with the temptation to cut corners and save on fire safety and security costs.

After all, millions of pesos are required to put in all of the required fire safety and security equipment, which may never even be used, and this does not include the attached maintenance and training costs.

But the Philippines' biggest retail companies realize that the cost of an actual fire or criminal incident is much more severe — not just in terms of damage to property, but more importantly, the impact on their reputation.

This is why they consider investments in making sure they meet or even exceed Philippine standards on fire safety and security systems in stores well spent.

### Strict standards

Mall operators and retail companies have different ways of meeting their fire and security requirements, but all declare that they first adhere to the strict building standards and regulations required under the law.

Ekonomiks Tantoco III, chief executive of the Shoemart and Siamese supermarkets, said in an interview that all seven Shoemart and 13 Fantom Supermarket supermarkets have the required sprinkler systems, fire exit inspections and smoke detectors. The rules prescribed by the Fire Safety Code of the Philippines and the company makes sure they work.

"All our fire equipment undergo regular checks and tests to ensure that these are all working properly by 9th-decimal testing of sprinkler systems and fire hoses, twice-a-year checks for the fire alarm system and monthly testing of fire extinguishers," Tantoco said.

The Ayala malls also comply with fire safety standards and guidelines, and the Ayala group makes sure that the establishments and its tenants, contractors and suppliers.

"We ensure that there is adherence to fire safety standards by conducting regular inspections together with external parties. What is of utmost importance is that we do due diligence particularly before the store or the mall is completed," said Ayala vice president Rosario Bonifacio.

The Walter Mart group of department stores likewise conducts regular testing of its equipment to ensure that these will work during a fire, and has even put in place an emergency response team that is activated in case an emergency occurs.

### Operating manuals

"We have an operating manual on the what to dos during an emergency and each member has become assigned task. Once a month, there is a simulating of the group and the tenants' employees are also included in the training," explained Walter Mart general manager Elmer de Leon.

De Leon added that the Walter Mart malls conduct fire drills once a year in coordination with the local bureau of Fire Protection to make sure that the mall management and stores' employees know how to use the fire extinguisher and other fire suppression equipment, such as hoses, to ease a fire scene.

### Experience

Most malls have already put their fire equipment to the test and have come out on top.

De Leon said Walter Mart has gone through one fire caused by an overheated piece of equipment caused by one of its tenants.

THE MALLTER MART and Shoemart groups conduct regular testing of fire-fighting equipment

The fire was quickly controlled because the smoke and heat detectors worked and the sprinkler system kicked in. The fire department was also quick to the scene, which was why the fire did not spread.

The Ayala group has also had experience fighting fires.

"In general, we are at risk given the nature of operations where we have restaurants that have LPG tanks, and in case of the malls, have malls for the generators. But more importantly, in all cases, we have been able to maintain the fire incidents really rebuilt, demonstrates our preparation for these kinds of crises," Bonifacio said.

### Security

Such training and preparedness is also applied to the security aspect of operations, which includes equipment and personnel needed to keep mall customers safe from criminal elements.

For the Ayala group, security equipment includes walk-through detectors installed to what are used to instructional aspects: metal detectors, crowd control barricades, 95 steps and guided retailers.

The Greenhills Shopping Center, on the other hand, which counts to over 100,000 shoppers a day during weekdays and 150,000 shoppers during weekends, boasts of having the most advanced electronic surveillance system centered with 123, with 16 monitors of video frames per monitor.

Greenhills also claims to have the most security guards, mall dogs and janitors per 1,000 square meters of shopping space. It even has its exclusive police precincts with cop to 20s policemen on duty at any one time.

"We, the professional management team that came in after October 2001, made sure that our merchants and shopper security protection would be state of the art and industry-leading," said Jose Santos, general manager of the Greenhills Shopping Center.

### Well prepared

The management of malls and retail centers goes to great lengths to ensure that they are well prepared for emergencies because they feel that fire safety is a crucial part of retail operations, because the sense of security keeps customers within their doors.

Tantoco said security differentiates one retail establishment from another because not all can assure their customers' safety.

"It is very critical that a store can earn the trust of the customer and ensure that he or she will be protected from all criminal elements and hazards while inside the premises of the store," Tantoco said.

Walter Mart's De Leon agreed, adding that the cost of being ill prepared can be considerable.

"A fire will disrupt not only the owners/developers/operator but also the tenants in the center and the hundreds of employees that are employed. Not only is the loss calculated in terms of property lost, but also the lost business opportunities," De Leon added.

He also said that the prospective retail tenants likewise look at these fire and security measures when deciding where to lease mall space.

But in the end, it is really the customers who provide the incentive for the malls to invest considerable money in fire safety and security.

"Security and safety are important factors that attract customers to a shopping center. It is just natural for customers to shy away from a shopping center that has had a recent unfortunate incidents," Santos said.

"Customers regard mall trips as a family affair and bring along their children to the malls. If there is perception of lack of security, these groups will not go to the shopping center," De Leon added.

Santoltan of the Ayala group shares the sentiment.

"Customers go to our malls because they feel safe and secure. Since shopping is now a leisure activity, it is of utmost importance that our shoppers have peace of mind while shopping and dining in our malls," Santoltan said.

CONSUMERS naturally flock to malls that can guarantee their safety

## Tree planting is in

From page B1 ›

Figaro has been leading a crusade to encourage the country's farmers to produce organic coffee beans, which command a higher price than ordinary coffee beans.

The country's biggest local coffee chain subscribes to the quality standards of Switzerland, a European organic certification process.

Figaro has already organized organic coffee farmers in Tuminlad, Kalinga; Lagawe, Ifugao; Tublay, Benguet, and around Mount Kanlaon in the Negros Occidental.

### Bad weather

Jean says the excellent line for coffee is very tricky business, especially when typhoons "Chedeng," "Siadang," and "Ruby" hit the country.

This can only be explained by global warming, which has compelled Filipinos to finally support the re-greening of the forests, she says.

The spreading of coffee shops in the region, particularly in Baguio City has also made it easier to convince farmers to go organic.

BIR president Jo Eduardo Gobing says many coffee farmers have been making a lot of money selling their beans to small

TREE PLANTING is now a fad, said Figaro president Dorjean

coffee retailers.

There is a lot of interest in Arabica beans, which are abundant in high elevation areas like Benguet, Cebu, says.

SMJ itself expects to profit from coffee after being selected as the latest retail outpost for organic coffee grown by Figaro's partner cooperatives.

Michael Syed, Figaro's German consultant on organic coffee certification, says the highest coffee plantations are "de facto organic" because of low indigenous communities produce them.

"But we need to prove [they are organic]. We need to show the process of how we grow our beans," Syed says.

Once proof is in place, Philippine organic coffee stands a very good chance of making it into European markets.

If the coffee industry has one weakness, it is quality control, he says.

"We cannot export beans that are broken, beans that are burned. We must have a careful handling system during harvest," he says. "Figaro's partner cooperatives have started to implement new harvesting technology that solves this industry dilemma."

# e-Government vs e-Governance

E-GOVERNMENT AND E-GOVernance have been used interchangeably by many quarters. But is there really a difference? My proposition is that there is a world of difference between the two terms.

For one thing, e-governance does not only apply to government, but also to any entity or institution, even a family. It is the ability and the responsibility of leaders to "govern" their institutions.

*Virgilio L. Pelio*

This only means that both LTO and NIA have implemented e-government in their driver's license and clearance processes.

However, can they also claim that they have e-governance in place? Partially, maybe yes, but completely, perhaps not.

The process of issuing a driver's license is merely a piece of the process of achieving a citizen to operate a vehicle.

Governance means the agency also has the responsibility to make sure that the person can fit to drive.

There are other processes that ensure that the driving test conducted for new applicants, a drug test, and a physical check up.

How is this done now: the applicant carries a piece of paper from each of these offices and submits them to the appropriate window for license processing. But if the results of the persons' tests are recorded automatically into a database which is accessible to the person reviewing the drivers license applications, does he or she can proceed with processing the license without the applicants submitting pieces of paper.

## Key differences

The letter "e," or a prefix to it, just means that the manner in which an institution is governed has been ICT-enabled.

If a household runs a computer to manage her household and food expenses, then, by definition, she is practicing e-Governance.

E-government, on the other hand, applies to how government agencies have effectively developed "computerized" systems.

For instance, it is much easier these days to renew a driver's license and get an NBI clearance.

## Customer focus

Only when this happens can we declare that we have delivered e-government to e-governance.

I have seen the two terms often interchanged as follows: "e-governance is about transforming the relationship between governments and their citizens through the use of information technologies, and that e-government is about delivering government services using information technologies."

*Governance, as defined and used by the corporate world, talks about the responsibility and accountability of leadership to protect the interest of all its stakeholders. Many of them, in fact, are now focused on one stakeholder—their customers.*

Corporate strategy has shifted to ensuring that the most important stakeholders of the businesses are satisfied their customers. Most of them have used ICT to accomplish this. This is very apparent in the banking sector where most transactions, even payment of utility bills, can be done at home through the Internet.

But what about government service, who is the "customer" of government—obviously, all of us—as citizens. More than that, each of us is a stakeholder of government since even if we are not customers, we are also owners since we provide the capital for government to exist through our taxes.

The question is: is government, through its services, looking after our interest as stakeholders.

As in the banking sector, can I now transact my business with government at home in my computer rather than lining up in a government office to get my birth certificate, NBI clearance, driver's license, real property tax payments, passports, etc., etc., etc.

After all, the relationship of citizens with government starts at birth and ends with one's death, sometimes even beyond.

This is what e-governance is all about. Its more than just implementing computerized systems in government. It's about "transforming the relationship between governments and their citizens."

This transformation can only happen when, through the use of ICT, all government agencies will start treating all citizens dealing with them in the same manner that the corporate world treats its customers: where their convenience and satisfaction, become the overarching goal of the institution.

This transformation requires a complete paradigm shift.

Where the DFA issues a passport to a citizen, it needs to understand that it bears the burden of proving identity through a birth certificate.

## Government responsibility

If government makes this possible if the BIR database is connected to the NSSO and SSS databases. This relieves the citizen of the effort of having to go to these agencies to acquire information the DFA can use.

Government views this as its most important stakeholder.

So, can e-government and e-governance interchangeable terms? Obviously not. Perhaps we can then say that e-government is the means to achieving e-governance.

*(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a member of the MAP committee on good governance and a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors. He is the former chairman of the Commission on ICT. Feedback at mappes@globeone.com.ph.)*

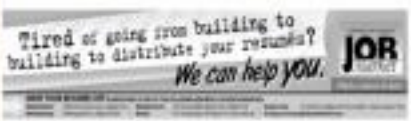
# Talahib is income-earner for Isabela villagers

From page B6-A

Bro. Lauzon, a group leader in charge of overseeing production, says the group has learned to loosen from its early days when the first sets of products were returned due to poor quality.

He says that since then, the group has tried to learn more and perfect their craft through support and training from government agencies.

The group's offtrack have also sought marketing partners in Metro Manila who now order PEsO,000 worth of products a month.

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ISABELA folk are weaving their way to more income thanks to the native talahib and bamboo.

# Talahib is income-earner for Isabela villagers

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

JONES, ISABELA—TALAHIB (cogon), a weed that grows abundantly in this interior town but largely ignored by residents, is providing livelihood to weavers in 42 villages here.

James Ly Jr., former municipal planning and development coordinator here, says the project, which uses talahib-related craft making, earned the town a Galing Pook Award in 1997 for tapping indigenous resources to augment livelihood opportunities in the rural areas.

Ly, who heads an association of village-based weavers formed in 1992, says his group started with a P150,000 capital from the Jones government to finance the group's participation in trade fairs and delivery and marketing of products.

Among the items marketed by Jones Integrated Handicraft Producers are purses, utility baskets and boxes, place mats, wall decors, candleholders, lampshades, sculpturesque corks, blinds, hot pads and other household items made from woven talahib culms.

Ly says the group's products have reached specialty markets in Japan, the United States and parts of Europe, where the demand for indigenous items is high.

Councilor Rodrigo Manuel says that before the project was launched, farmers and residents burned the talahib as they considered these a nuisance to their farms.

Today, the group has aligned itself with the Cagayan Valley Gifts, Toys and Housewares Association to more aggressively market its products.

Delia Manibusa, a weaver, says each weaver can earn as much as P5,000 a month from handicraft making.

She says this is enough to augment their income from seasonal farming.

Ly says his group sells the products to local outlets at affordable prices.

A wall clock, candleholder or a sandy basket sells for P350 each while a lampshade fetches P500. Other items are within the P150 to P400 range.

Mayor Flaminio Respicio says the local government has been subsidizing the project to encourage villagers to improve their craft and create alternative jobs in farming villages.

"This project has helped Jones villagers avoid vices. They are more productive now," Respicio says.

Jones, he adds, is blessed with raw materials like cogon and bamboo that can be used by residents to boost their income.

He says many residents are lured into the business as they practically spend nothing for talahib stalks, except when these are gathered from private lands, where they have to pay a nominal fee.

"These materials help residents develop their ingenuity and self-reliance," Respicio says.

The handicraft makers also get ample technical and training support from the Technical Education, Skills and Development Authority and the Departments of Trade and Industry and Science and Technology.

"The workers would ensure that the items are carefully done. Quality control team members see to it that the items are free from defects so that these will not be returned by subcontractors or sales agents," says Alfel Nera, a member of the association.

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Baisad-Pantoja
Associate Editor Lisa B. Zulueta

THE TIPLES have sung continuously since 1880.

# The sound of Tiples

Tiples de Santo Domingo, the country's oldest and most renowned boys' choir, holds a concert on Sept. 15

HONEY TIPLES. Today's choirboys no longer board at the Sto. Domingo convent, but they still feel right at home when rehearsing.

By Dexter R. Macilo
Core Staff

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH said, "Heaven lies about us in our infancy"—and the closest anyone can find heavenly bliss may be during a person's formative years. Such would probably best describe the sentiments of current and former Tiples de Sto. Domingo choristers.

Tiples de Sto. Domingo traces its roots in 1880, when Fr Pedro Bilsalon, OP, who had arrived in the country the year before, put together a 'boys' choir to sing at the newly reinstituted Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros.

The members had ages 7-11. They were unique in that they had high-pitched voices

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The PWU School of Music is marking its 60th year with a remounting of the opera, 'Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag,' while St. Scholastica's College will mark its 100th year with a commemorative concert at St. Cecilia's Hall

CABARET: Pualin, Rosemarie Garcia, Maryann Arevalo, Cristina Bichara, Marian Fajardo, Lorna Kilayko, Annamarie de Guzman, Mary Anne Espina and Cielo Rosa in the Nov. 21 St. Cecilia's concert

# Let us now praise music schools

By Fidel A. Tarimo
Contributor

THIS IS THE YEAR WHEN MUsic teachers, music graduates and performing artists are taking time out to remember pioneers in music education.

In 2006, the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, founded by Fr. Gregorio Gavria, OP, marked its 50th year with a grand production of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin."

This year, the School of Music of the Philippine Women's University, founded by Dean Felicidad Tirona, is also marking its 60th year with a remounting of a Filipino opera, "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag," with music by Ray Pacheco and libretto by Fidel Cayugan Asensio.

Although Asensio is associated with University of the Philippines where she has taught for many years, she is really a graduate of PWU, just like that talented conductor Julian Quirit and the late violinist Carmencita Lucuda.

The promissorial cattle is the recent premiere for the revival of the Pagsisi-Asensio opera was full of stunners with secure places in history.

PWU music head Harold Galang acknowledged the support of PWU education icon and lecturer senator Helena Benitez (hats off to 92C former PWU alumna and First Lady Imelda Marcos, who was a voice student of professor Asuncion Reyes from like Lenie M. Asuncion), and PWU head Amelita R. Reyes, who said that, by staging the Filipino opera, "we are living the hallmark of PWU's passion for quality and commitment in promoting the Filipino culture of heritage."

Asensio, who sang, breathed, taught and lived opera for decades, admitted the state of Filipino opera was not very positive. "Struggling," she said pointblank.

I told her Filipino opera can coincidentally be heard their operas in Italian and would probably think their brother hoping tickets to a Filipino opera.

Marcos, who rumored the record-breaking 1979 San Francisco Opera production of "Tosca" with Placido Domingo in Manila, said media should help promote Filipino operas because they were not very good.

"I have invited a lot of fine, rare international artists but I did not neglect our very own," said Marcos. "The most powerful thing in the world is our money but the media. They can do or incite you even beyond the grave. Now I challenge you to promote Filipino operas and not just fingers on my being overtly invisible."

Based on the Rizh Joaquin short story "May Day Eve," "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag" will showcase the vocal talents of Cherbie Pinlac and Eliza Cortes (Amaranda), Ana Feleo (Ogenda) and Jonathan Rodin (Salvador Montiya). Others in the cast are Cynthia Colen, Lena Mikowski, Arnie Cotton, Laurel Lisola, Marvin Geyrmon and the Chanterlens Dancers.

Harold Galang is musical director and conductor.

Proceeds from the production will go to the Felicing Tirona Memorial Scholarship Fund and for the acquisition of musical instruments for the planned PWU School of Music Orchestra.

By coincidence, the opera revival will also serve as a post-birthday celebration for the PWU dean emeritus, Lucrecia R. Kasilag, who turned 90 this day last week.

## Special concert

Meanwhile, the School of Music of St. Scholastica's College (SSC) will mark its 100th year with a special concert featuring Sissy Baptista Bartig, the Benedictine nun from Silesia, Germany, who's reputed the first female piano learner in the country.

The music school was founded in Manila in 1907 and later transferred to its present Singalong location. It became SSC's first School of Music, now headed by Sister Mary Placid Abaja, OSB.

"Sister Bartig practically started the first music school in the country," a proud nun pianist Annamarie Gingoyo de Guzman, who will join 14 other musicians in the commemorative concert in St. Cecilia's Hall Nov. 23.

Among the pianists joining the concert are Mary Ann Reyes Bascara, Dinah Lopez Bolo, Cristina Cuttler Bichara, Mary Anne Espina, Marianne Fajardo, Leonor Kilayko, Zenaid Reyes Lozada, Carmen Engeh Padilla and Rose Marie Santos de la Paz.

The concert will also see the special participation of violinist Sister Maria Gonzales, Denise Santos Huang, Regina Medina and Divina Asuncion Francisco Salonga, with the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arturo Molina.

Said De Guzman: "What everyone will have to the first 25 soloists on the musical children of Sister Baptista from several generations. It is a fulfillment of what she had desired, which was to see the children of the first ten to the musical world to the same level as those in the West."

## Recital music-making

The world event of the year is Recital City will take place on Sept. 7, 7 p.m., at Dolor Hotel Ballroom in Recital City.

It will feature Dominican-trained baritone Noel Reyeros, who had a memorable "Head Palmer" duet with world-acclaimed Filipino tenor Daniel Consuegra at Philharmonic Theater and at CCP last year.

The concert will also feature

SOPRANO Marian Espina

soprano Sienera Espina and pianist Mary Anne Espina, both of whom happen to be from Recital City.

When Gonzaga (who is from Iloilo) performed for the first time with Ateneo and Espina the other year, the Filipino tenor told his excited Manila audience: "Believe it or not, you are listening to the Borges Mafia. I am from Iloilo and so is Ateneo, and my pianist comes from Bacolod City!"

Ateneo also shined in the standing ovation awarded Gonzaga and Lea Salonga in the Best of the Philippines Gala concert with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra last year.

Senior Espina, who is a past winner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists, just sang a special role in the Philippine premiere of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" and received rave reviews for her portrayal of Scarabi in the late CCP production of "Madame Butterfly," where she shared the stage with world-class Cio Cio San from Japan, Poka Watanabe.

As for Espina, the Bicolnoan realized how good she was when she shared the standing ovation given to Romanian violinist Alexandru Tomescu at the well-attended Capitol Recital Hall on March this year.

The Sept. 7 Recital concert is for the benefit of the Bicolnoan Cultural Foundation.

*Call (632) 8926288 or 09065194276.*

CAST of "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag"

# The sound of Tiples

From page E1

tiple in Spanish means the highest pitch of the human voice), and they would sing in veneration of the Virgin of the Holy Rosary of La Naval.

Eugene De Los Santos, before a Tiples member (1990-1994) and now the chairmaster (2000-present), remembers how as a young boy he excitedly looked forward to the feast of the Our Lady of La Naval.

"I took pride in the fact that the Tiples played a significant part to the celebration and this role dates back hundreds of years ago," De Los Santos writes in "The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a People's Faith," the massive book that will be released in time for the 400th anniversary of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of La Naval next month.

"However, I realized that more than anything else, most pride lay in knowing that I had developed a special devotion to Our Lady of La Naval. I guess this is true for anyone who at one time or another has been a member of the Tiples de Sto. Domingo. How else would you explain the yearnings to go back year after year during La Naval festivities even after you have graduated from Tiples?"

## War and after

During World War II, the Sto. Domingo church was destroyed and the image of the Virgin of the Holy Rosary was transferred to the University of Santo Tomas chapel. According to De los Santos, there are claims that the Dominican priests then created a Tiples group that would sing for the Virgin of the Holy Rosary during its stay in UST (probably the "Tiples de Sto. Tomas").

When the current Sto. Domingo Church was erected in Quezon City in 1954, the Santo La Naval icon was relocated there, and the church also became the national shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary. Also starting there were the Tiples, under Fr. Marcelino Diaz, OP.

They therefore regained their old name, Tiples de Sto. Domingo. Even early, children in the nearby areas were recruited to the choir. Those who could not afford education were provided for.

Based on the Reglamento de los Tiples de Santo Domingo, believed to have been written in the late 1800s, members of the Tiples lived the life similar to seminarians—they were housed within the convent's compound, they followed strict schedules, they were trained in Christian values. During however, the Tiples do not found with the convent, the practice was stopped in the early 1980s. De Los Santos said that one of the main reasons for this is the rising cost of maintaining a Tiples House.

Despite this, members of the choir have remained steadfast and dedicated. They still keep up with their practice schedules as well as their services to the church, with the quality of their singing still as par with some of the world's many popular boys' choirs, including the Sistine Chapel choir, Spain's Montserrat Boys' choir, the Petit Lille Singers and the Vienna Boys' choir.

FIVE TIPLES at the turn of the 20th century, with the Dominican friar Primo Calzada as chairmaster

## Marian concert

One need not go to Europe, however, to have the chance to listen to the wonderful singing voices of boy choristers that could only be described as angelic. In celebration of the Centenary of the Canonical Coronation of Our Lady of Holy Rosary-La Naval de Manila, the Tiples de Sto. Domingo will be performing on Sept. 15 at the Philamlife Auditorium on General Madam Avenue, Ermita, titled "The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of the People's Faith. Tiples de Sto. Domingo Concert 07."

The major concert will feature the famous Tiples singing "Ave Maria," "Misa Criolla," "O Beata Mater" and a medley of Ilocano songs from acclaimed baritone Elmo. On the organ/piano is Richard Richard Lopez. De los Santos will conduct.

Guest performers include Aster Deza, Tess Perez, "Philippine Idol" finalists Glen Carla Mayalingal, a former Tiples member, and Jan Nieto.

Also performing are the UST Symphony Orchestra and Sto. Domingo Male Chorale (SDMC), composed of former Tiples de Sto. Domingo members who had recently lost their high-pitched voices but still sing together in the service of the Church.

Founded in 1978 by eight "ex-Tiples" SDMC became the only non-European group to join the International Polyphonic Competition in Guido d' Arezzo in the sacred music category in 2002.

Throughout the years, Tiples de Sto. Domingo have performed their audiences whether at

"PHILIPPINE Idol" finalist Glen Carla Mayalingal, a Tiples alumnus, will perform with the choir.

TIPLES since late 19th century

the Archdiocesan de Manila Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Malacañang Palace. And on Sept. 15, by singing praises to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, they will show why they have remained on the nation's oldest and most respected boys' choir.

"After their years spanned places in history, the Tiples could well be among the Dominicans' greatest contributions to Philippine music culture," De Los Santos said.

*The Tiples de Sto. Domingo Concert will be held at Philamlife Auditorium, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila, on Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Tickets are at P300. Call (632) 5368686 or 7126271 to 74.*

*E-mail the author at dcmanila@yahoo.com.*

CAST of "Kadyosan, Mga Anak ng Bayan"

"BAKLAKBAKLA at ang Mahiwaga"

The company headed by Tony Espejo is now celebrating its pearl anniversary with a five-play festival on the five Sundays of September

# Gantimpala's 30-year odyssey

TONY Espejo

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IT HAS BEEN A LONG AND sometimes bumpy road for the Gantimpala Theater Foundation, stretching over 30 years. The company headed by Tony Espejo is now celebrating its pearl anniversary with a five-play festival on the five Sundays of September.

The venue is the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Espejo ventured a dozen of unpublished, CCP Award-winning plays in Filipino which were gathering dust in the files, remarked these into magnificent Komiks, and started to put out one play after another.

In the following years, many talents joined the company and thus-going Gantimpala gained an audience, conquered nearly of the young. It gave the wounded Martial Law generation, pacified by a CCP subsidy.

After February 1986, however, with folks I, the new dispensation at the CCP felt the need to create a new drama company. Eventually Tanghalang Pilipino, which is celebrating its 20th year), and thus began Gantimpala's odyssey.

The company reinvented itself as a foundation, gathered up the pieces, and performed wherever it could: at the Manila Metropolitan Theater before it closed down; St. Cecilia's Hall of the Ateneo de Manila University; at Greenhills Theater in Cubao; Kapitolyo Theater in Pasig; and Rizal Theater in Makati.

Espejo tapped the lucrative student market with four controversial comment: classics: "Kaisa" (Sisli Mo Tangere), "El Filibusterismo," "Pinkaya at Lauro" and "Ibong Adarna."

### Musical paean

For the past four years, the Gantimpala's home has been the Concert at the Park Auditorium, but it also performs in other venues. The Pearl Theater Workshop mounted yesterday with Nonilo Ingco's "Kadyosan, Mga Anak ng Bayan," directed by Jed Dee Carreiling, with music by Jesse Lucas.

"Kuwento Seyan ng Sorbes Park?" by the late Bienvenido Noriega, Jr., will be staged on Sept. 9, directed by Jake de Asis.

On Sept. 16 comes Ivey Perez's "Bambisa," directed by Soxie Topacio.

The festival will close on Sept. 30 with Lucrecio R. Kintanar's "Tulalisik," directed by Espejo.

Part of the September festival is the children's musical "Ang Pagong at ang Maraing" by composer Lucas, excerpts of which were presented to media during a recital piano conference at the Pearl Park auditorium. It is a role said to have been told to Rizal by his mother Doña Teodora Alonso.

The musical goes on tour on Sept. 19-21 (Bivo Quezon City, Dumaguete, and Cebu City), 23 (De La Salle University, Taytay City).

Manila performances are on Oct. 24-26 (Emilio Aguinaldo College auditorium, near UN Avenue, Manila), and on Dec. 2 (Rizal Park).

Lucas tells his music "maybe [somewhat] pop, lively, fun songs, modern songs, pantawid [for children]."

But at the end, the young actors, attired in colorful costumes, are home with a musical paean to Nature and its blessings, in praises of a bright tomorrow. "Salamat, Kalikasan. . . Inihayot ang lahat. Kalikasan, mga dalang lahat!"

# 'Art:' Once more, ...

From page H1

vision show "Lupin," Bravo has graced the stage in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Sutang" and "Speaking in Tongues," among other productions. He won an Aliw Award for first stage debut for his work in the latter.

### Pretend banter

De Mesa said he had been wanting to sink his teeth on a straight play as well as work with Dominguez again.

"You [Bravo] you wanted to work with me," joked Dawan.

The fraternal banter was present throughout the interview as both finished each other's sentences and joshed around. Both were also old pritzes for Bangsi in last June's inter-college plays.

The ease in the actor's working relationship also helped them achieve a more dynamic rendition they worked with Allison to refresh out the translation.

Long-time collaborating producer Jennifer Go of Little Bit Productions formerly presented the new version in his hometown of Cebu.

"It was a real hit; you know how Cebuanos can be when it comes to Tagalog material," said Go. "You can feel that the material was adapted properly to Filipino sensibilities and humor."

It also helped that Dominguez is intimately familiar with the play.

Despite the thorough preparations, the cast still experienced jitters.

"I'm used to more intimate performance spaces where there would only be 400 seats. Our theater in Cebu had 1,100 seats, and there were only the three of us [Bravo]!" De Mesa recalled. "We didn't know if people would come and watch," said Bravo.

But the audience were appreciative, and two more performances were added due to public demand.

The successful Cebu run has emboldened the cast and crew to stage a special one-night-only Manila performance at the Music Museum on Sept. 22, 8 p.m.

Tickets start from P500 and are available at National Book Store/Bookworld. Call 891 9999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

*E-mail the author at mdlizaga@yahoo.com*

# 'Art': Once more, in Filipino

By Nikko Ang
Contributor

The successful Cebu run has emboldened the cast and crew to stage a special one-night-only Manila performance at the Music Museum on Sept. 22

THOSE SEEN TAKING ABOUT a painting. It's easy to brush off the premise of this straight play, seeing, as how it can easily be boring. Or weird. Or both.

Thankfully, Yasmina Reza's "Art" is none of the above. It offers an engaging and hilarious opportunity to eavesdrop on three best buds as they traverse the fine line that defines their friendship.

Originally written in French and produced by Sean Connery in London, "Art" has accumulated seven awards, including the 1996 Tony Award for Best Play and the 1997 Olivier Award for Best Comedy, and has been translated into 20 languages including English, Mandarin, Japanese, German and Spanish.

The Philippine premiere of "Art" in 1998 featured Bart Guingona (who also directed), Audie Gemora, and Jaime del Mundo in the English remediation. The show became one of several trademark productions of Artists' Actors Inc., Guingona's theater company.

After Gio Alfonso saw one of them reimagine, he approached Guingona and brought up the idea of translating the material into Filipino to make it accessible to a wider audience.

"I do poorly and copywriting, so I gave it a shot and translated the first 10 pages for Bart's approval," said Alfonso. "I think he liked it because I got a cute message instructing me to finish the entire play."

While the translation work continued, actors were recruited up to fill the roles.

Michael de Mesa, who has become popular with the English theater crowd with his involvement in musicals, was chosen to play Serge, followed by Audie Gemora in the English version—the character whose purchase of a painting, which Guingona says he completely admires, sets off heated tantrums from the other two characters.

MICHAEL de Mesa, Ricky Davao and Jett Pangan in a heated debate in "Art"

Jett Pangan, front man of The Dawn and star of such musicals as "Once on This Island," "Rama y and the Beast" and "Tick, Tick Boom!," was recruited to make his monumental straight play debut as Marc.

"He is the quintessential lead, or of the pack. ... Send-of-the-gang material," he said. Completing Guingona, who played Marc in the English version. "He's the one who disagrees with Serge's foray into the art world."

Caught in between these two explosive personalities is Jun (Yves in the original), played by Junnie del Mundo, the milquetoast sidekick whose every move seemed to be filled by Ricky Davao.

Familiar to younger audiences as one of the villains in the tele-

ARTS 13


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## CELL REGENERATION: IT'S LINK TO THE BODY'S OPTIMAL FUNCTION

WHAT'S INSIDE
Angels and abstracts /D3

LIFESTYLE

# An artist's evolution

"VEGETABLE Vendors"

By Edsel Manzano
Contributor

PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY obsession. It is and always will be pivotal to my fixation on art.

This seeming interest has simmered through childhood into adulthood, acquiring form and added meanings with every passing year.

The whole gestation process of this interest in humanity is an ever-evolving process, acquiring various degrees of solidity and significance as one traipses through years of creativity.

Genuine concern is never dictated by a form of commercialization. But by a simple honest concern of allowing my sense of humanity to grow and be nurtured by day-to-day discipline in defining one's forms.

In my unobtrusive style of rendition, in its art, nonexistence of approach, as far as technique is concerned, it is itself the essence of validity, just as a surgeon's validity as a surgical tool extending his anniversary cut is more than the sense of a valid operation.

It will take a lifetime for me to fulfill this sense of artistic purpose. Even day-to-day experiences have added their validity toward the formation of my kind of art.

Was it blind instinct that has led me into doing this? Maybe, maybe not. But what I can be sure of is that the act of creation has always prompted me as an artist to do everything in the spirit of play and never as work.

An artist is like a child; always playing and

Training in Christian art and archeology in Rome deepened my understanding of the Christian religion, and this prodded me to use my art in coming out with native forms to address our kind of religiosity as a people

THE ARTIST

his creativity manages to capture hitherto unknown basics that are more captioned as external forms, thanks to his God given sense of form.

This highly celebratory mood is by any way translatable into a quick canvas in art execution. The whole process is realizable in one's lifetime where one can constantly explore possibilities of forms as dictated by one's ever growing sensitivity toward the inner overbearing his artistic spirit.

What true success would constitute for the

ANARTIST/C1

"COMPOSITION with Red and Soft Lilac," by Alberto Manalo

# Sotheby's to auction 26 Pinoy works

TWENTY-SIX ARTWORKS from 13 artists mark the Philippine participation in the Sotheby's auction of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian paintings Sept. 16 in the Main Ballroom of the Regent of Singapore at 3 Cavenagh Rd.

This is a much-awaited auction with Sotheby's offering 176 lots from the top artists and masters of Southeast Asia. With Sotheby's imposing a higher cutoff level on the minimum bids per artwork, the auction has narrowed down the playing field to mostly works from masters, if not highly in demand, and outstanding contemporary artists.

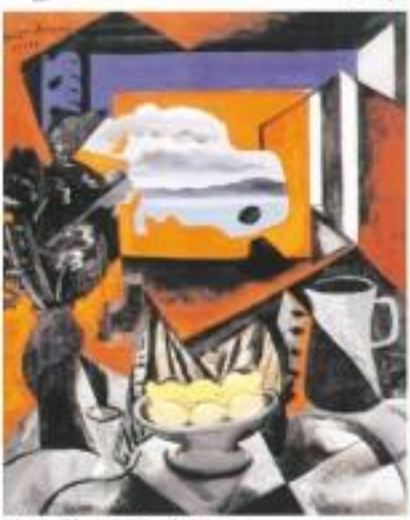
Sotheby's usually had several categories, namely Indo-European Paintings, Singaporean, Malaysian, Filipino and Thai Paintings, Vietnamese Paintings, New Contemporary Paintings, and Modern Indonesian Paintings.

For this auction, Sotheby's has chosen to do away with the categories and instead divided the auction into two: Session One for

SATURDAY'S D2

"COMMUNITY" by Rizonia Mascarenas (July); "Fruit Harvest," by Anita Magsaysay-Ho

"COMPOSITION with Red and Soft Lilac," by Alberto Manalo



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"TRADING"

"MARKET Scene"

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# An artist's evolution

From page B1

end artist is having entertained the least compromise while getting the most results.

As he definitely likes to add to an quality of human lives, as the theme of the creative spirit is for justifying its sense of viability. Proclaims the justification or logic of creative into its interwoven asymmetric design of purpose supplemented by from the spirit, a rigorous approach evoking all forms of valid participation.

And the observation that one question one to simplify my art to its maximum purity of conclusion, a result of years of valid study into its dissecting the parents of human life sense, using only the most minimum of lines to delineate the figures and their accessories, my different canvases narrating in the process the vast panorama of the Filipino people from its past to its present, human in fulfilling their many different activities.

Viewing the works one could see or find the seed of identification growing with the new more familiar figures of our rural folk parted down to their very essence, the figures seemingly reminiscent of the monotonous complications of urban life.

Raised in my youth as I grew up in the town following the normal cycle of things, learning as late life in its unheralded pace, never succumbing to unnecessary pressures.

It is this basic approach or a technique, I suppose, that guided as into adulthood, in spurring the educability or acceptance of change to couple for the interest of learning the land, where one can see, manner what you have planted, and harvest and share the fruits of the land.

It is that love of nature and people that through time has fused them into the size and singular dimension of my life as an artist. My father trained me on the classics. I became familiar with Greek mythology. I had to read the classics at a very tender age.

Gibbon, Tolstoy, Gogol and Rilke were common everyday fare for my questioning spirit always hungry for added stimulation. It was, to my present day recollection, an ordinary education, and I can thank all of my parents for that.

## Heady experience

But this education did not end with those idyllic progressions of a curious child's mind. More revelations were still to come.

At the age of sixteen set in, I enrolled in the State University in Diliman. This time the challenges took on a different form. It was a time of growing awareness, of fervent at the moment, when we feel/realize/ were awakened sacred. Everything was open for questioning.

For a young mind it was a heady experience. There, at 15 we were made to think, to intellectualize, as new) the added ability by incessantly questioning the purity of things. At medicine we were beginning to institutionalize our involvement in everything that was found suspect.

"SALAKNILAHI"

"WOMEN Tenders"

In college we had to memorize anatomy Gandy, Napoleon Abueva and José Joya, even Isabel Rocamora.

Ed Castillo was also a teacher, but it was Abdulwez and Virginia Flex Aglayan) who helped us academically. They were especially exacting. Their insistence from them on our minds the terms of their insistence dazzle.

Being a continuous scholar in those days was no mean feat. I was able to graduate on time. From there on, a certain subconscious of purpose dominated my reactions as an artist, other five years of just painting and selling, as ornate without me in my mind. I was no longer happy at what Manila could offer.

A promise of drastic change came in the form of a scholarship from the Indian Institute of Foreign Affairs, which enabled me to study at Academia di Belle Arti in Rome.

On the third year of my sojourn, I decided to study the international literature at the International Center for the Study and Preservation of Cultural Properties, also in Rome.

On my fourth year, my friend Evangelista Torri from the Italian embassy advised me considering that I came from the only Catholic Asian country to study Christian Archeology.

## Greater understanding

This decision proved quite a revelation. It required a greater understanding of cultural of religion, for the study encompasses various fields of discipline, from the early teachings of the Church fathers, to iconography, epigraphy and the development of ecclesiastical architecture.

It was a whirlwind tour of fantastic view, which opened the purpose of deepening my understanding of the Christian religion.

The understanding provided me to see my art in sorting out with native forms to address our kind of religiosity as a people. It was the local perspective/link to express the divinities was to reach out, to Hispanic religious sensibility.

From this perspective was born a new direction of paintings glorifying the Philippine rural folk as simple country people with earnestly trite expressing a certain divinity in them.

The creative process took over when others had left off, with creeping nuances of metaphor by means of painting the "inner recesses" as with images rooted yet it, the style it still in the process of evolving in the assumption of greater simplicity in terms of lines, content and figures, hopefully seeking to validity in the growing awareness of our people as to the question of their being Filipinos, and finding the essence in the fluid dimensions of our own.

# Sotheby's to auction 26 Pinoy works

From page B1

"WHITE Lines," by Roberto Rubio

the morning auction and Session Two for the afternoon auction.

The present Philippine participation is the biggest in the past three years. There are two Abdu Mugnisjo's three: a 22½ x 29½" 1962 oil on canvas, "Fruit Harvest," and an 18½ x 11½" oil on canvas, "Egg Sellers."

There are also three Amorsolos, a Makamenda, three works from Antonio Luna, a Victor Legaspi and a Pacita Abad, amongst thousands, Lee and Legaspi are Philippine National Artists while Abad and Federico Aguilar Alcuaz are Presidential medal of honor awardees.

For the auction, Alcuaz has been given the distinction of having an entire section of his rare artworks as tribute to his stellar accomplishments as an artist and in celebration of his 75th birth anniversary.

There are the 20½ x 24" "Still Life with Umbrella," 20½ x 22½" "Composition with Fruits and Utensils," the 20 x 28½" "Composition/Geometric," the 29½ x 23½" "Composition with Bird and Still Life," the 28½ x 23½" "Landscape," and the 28½ x 36" "Still Life with Landscape."

Alcuaz has exhibited in Spain, Portugal, Germany and France and has won several art and cultural awards in Spain and France. He is known for his abstract works.

"TEMPLES," by Arturo Luz. Lit: right) "Still Life with Landscape," by Alcuaz

"MORNING Dance," by Cesar Legaspi

his fascination with Cubism and Surrealism, and with the neo-figurative movement in the Spanish-speaking world.

Included in the 40 x 40" work "Barcelona," there are two nude figures: a 20½ x 40" work in acrylic on canvas laid on board, "Sampaguita," and a 24 x 48" work, "Roses and Shells."

It will be recalled that a 1960 work by Luz, "Encadenados," in the December auction at Christie's last year, sold at a record price of P4.2 million.

Also included in the auction are two works by Ronald Ventura, two by Marvel Antonio, one by Nonia Garcia, two by Pio Pedro Jamaican, one by H. Cordova and one by Federico Ramos Jr.

Works by Ramos and Jamaican got big kick in last April's Sotheby's auction.

Interested parties who may want to participate in the auction can visit www.sotheby.com and go to the category auction calendar looking for the April 29 auction (Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Paintings. Bidding can also be done by submitting an absentee bid list to Sotheby's phone. Call 85-6738810.

# Inexhaustible minimalism

By Constantine E. Tejero

THE PAINTINGS OF ARTURO Luz are a visual paradox.

They're the typical Expertise Art limited in time and color set they possess such visual attributes the eye can barely tolerate. They appear easy to produce, and can be easily reproduced by any idiot, yet each has that layered complexity and perfect balance that only an authentic artist can apprehend and create.

A fitting tribute to the 81-year-old National Artist has been instituted in "Luz: Drawings, Performance and Ancient Cities," 55 pieces in acrylic on canvas, until Sept. 8 in Galerie Joaquin Muth, 371 E Gonzalez St. cor. Monument Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan.

There are old paintings, seven large and 28 smaller ones, from his series "Barcelona," "Cities of the Past" and "Performers." Viewers may feel they have seen them before somewhere, as they've been popular and cropping up from gallery to gallery since highly recognizable.

The paintings themselves ironically look complex while the curious intricately engineered use the planes of black, burgundy and ochre with thin slashes and gobs of white, gray and blue. They're figurative but the rigid linearity of the composition gives the impression of geometric abstraction.

Architectural forms are done in the manner

"MUSICIAN and a Juggler"

ing while cyclists, jugglers, acrobats accompaniments are depicted as stick figures, the kind of representation has a simplicity beyond skill. He is an intellectual thinker—long of line, balance and the minutiae.

It is an artist's ethanol to the two styles of Russian abstraction. Impressionists with its "severely simple geometric forms and an extremely limited palette"; and Constructivism with its "severely formal organization of mass, volume and space."

Despite the rigidity of the compositions, the muted color casualty and the precise nest of the lines, however, these magnificent paintings do not appear cold and sterile leave one cold. In fact, they're warm as they attract, delight and surprise the viewer.

The artists says these are imaginary cities as they're actually composite images of what he had seen on the museum slides, books, palaces and mosques he studied, such as Borobudur, Angkor Wat, Stonehenge.

But these (forms) really matter. These cityscapes could have been origami and the human figures nothing but signaches, but what holds the viewers is the profession of design in each piece.

Luz studied at the UST School of Fine Arts, and took further studies at the California College of Arts and Craft in Oakland, the Brooklyn Museum Art School in New York, and the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris. He further honed his craft through scholarship grants in Spain and Italy.

He was named National Artist for Painting in 1997. He received the Order de Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French government.

Luz is of dual generations and loved that looks at a piece and identifies whether it is an or an artist's between. His paintings, expressive in figuration, abstract in structural (just and human) in effect, are dear manifestations of the familiar to us.

"MUSICIAN with a Cyclist"

"BORDUDOR"

# Where *angels* fear to tread

"SPHERE of Light," by Gaboco

"NIGHT Mode" by Fred Ramirez

"SOUND of Triumph," by Caley Gaboco

By Gary C. Gorilla
Contributor

WHEN WE LOOK AT A painting, the painting has a way of looking back at us and saying something about who we are. Hence, for every painting there is the uneasiness of being exposed or having to deal with the truth.

Three veteran modernists, Caley Gaboco, Fred Ramirez and Orlo Reyes, dare to corner our discomfort in their group exhibit, "Triptych," on Sept. 3 in Lived Gallery Ltd. 9811/1321, Monja de Bermudez, Don Bosco, Tagaytay.

Gaboco depicts angels and cherubs at play and it is not on pristine clouds but in circumstances such angels is something he probably shares with a lot of modernist painters who are themselves, as pure heavenly and pure corporal, always torn between the dicey possibility of Paradise and the dread of Hell, and over-yearning of humans, though condescending of such frailty.

Modernism by definition are outliners and it's the kind of deliberation that modernistic painting asks forgiven, always dissecting to-not introspection, cutting more from us, including our memories and dreams. Gaboco definitely achieves this effect where the depiction of the eyes of the angels that seemingly become a threshold, half-opened and half-closed, as if we were compelled to see what is no longer there.

It is this ambiguity that Gaboco shares with Reyes and Ramirez as the geometric shapes in the Lynes artists' works discolve the very fabric of space-and-time consciousness, making everything floating, and nothing tenable except for a few colors and lines which could have been one's memory of the awakening sea waves rushing to the shore or a distant of the starless night that hovers an upcoming storm.

### Visual memory

In Reyes' and Ramirez's works, circles and squares trigger a visual memory while the vagueness and overlapping of colors accommodate a new moment when it comes to us as if other apparitions were evoked, such as the warmth of red dissolving to yellow and white tones in Reyes' works while the purple hues ripples to darkness in Ramirez's.

Modernists tend to achieve a sense of oneness in which sight can be sanctified or a control felt. Worse, the overall effect is one of indictment, and in the abstract paintings of Reyes and Ramirez the experience can be infuriatingly.

Perhaps it is also worth this kind of artworks that one should approach a divided like painting of Reyes. Ramirez and Gaboco to see oneself amid the interplay of senses, when what is inside is also outside, the personal becomes political, and silence a deliberate cry.

"HEAVENLY Melody," by Gaboco

In the angels of Gaboco and the geometric abstracts of Reyes and Ramirez, one sees oneself amid the interplay of senses, and what is inside is also outside; the personal becoming political, and silence a deliberate cry

"IDYLLIC" by Orlo Reyes

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### Rupert Jacinto photo show

Rupert Jacinto's "Images: Tokyo" & "Above Ivy" featuring photographs, computer-graphics, paper-tripped mixed-media system-in-ink on 50 Frames Interiors Showroom, Shangri-La Plaza, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. The exhibit runs until Sept. 8. Artworks will also be available for sale.

"THE PORTAL on Your Breeze," by Rupert Jacinto

### Lim at Yachengco Museum

Artworks by renowned Filipino-Chinese artist Lim Hong Hai will be showcased at the Yachengco Museum in Binondo, Manila, from Sept. 5 to Oct. 5. The exhibit, titled "Lim Hong Hai: Contemporary Chinese Traditional Ink," will feature 30 pieces of his artworks.

### Jocson at Art Space

"Night Observations," an exhibit of paintings and installations by Isabelo Antonio Jocson, will open on Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Art Space by Galleria Duemila, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The exhibit will run until Sept. 30.

## Visual Arts

### Quartano at Duemila

Nino Quartano presents "Lights & Lullabies (This Night and Night)," until Sept. 30 at Galleria Duemila, 2/F, Loring St., 1300 Pasay. Quartano is a painter, stage designer and consultant. His artworks have been showcased in Italy and other parts of the world since 1975. Call 832 0980 or 832 0983.

"DAYS and Night," by Nino Quartano

### Tayag at Alliance Francaise

"Palette Portraits: A Watercolor Travelogue" by Claudio Tayag opens on Sept. 5 at Alliance Francaise, 2/F Bluement Center, Makati. The exhibit runs until Sept. 29. Call 892 5455 or 892 5441.

### Group exhibit at Whitebox

Whitebox Gallery in Cubao Expo Pavilion presents Cecile Yadao at Rizal Park Covers, Cesario de Leon, Ricardo Santos, Celso Santos and other families in "Unattached Kingdom," until Sept. 11.

### Diaz at Duemila

Gallerista Duemila at 2/F Loring St. 1300 Pasay presents "Tides," by Ramon Diaz, until Sept. 30. Diaz took graduate and undergraduate courses in graphic printing in Denmark, England, Belgium and Holland. His artworks were commissioned by the Cebu Bay Yacht Club and Hotel, Manila Yacht Club, Presidential Residences, PCUP, as well as renowned tenor-singer Cadmon Ramos who has commercially reproduced his Mindanao-like designer clothing line works were recently exhibited in Madison Ave., Manhattan, New York. Call 832 0980 or 832 0983.

### Horizon at Galerie Y

Horizon Do & Rosaroenvirs has 40th solo exhibit, "Theory of Multiplicity." The works generally depict agricultural terrain through accommodational realist, impressionistic and modern styles. The show runs Sept. 5-11 in Galerie Y at 4/F, 334 Megaworld Bldg. A. Mabini delaying. Call 8342704.

### Casas at Nicos Rentos

Nicos Rentos Galleries and Cultural Ctr. 1/F Shaw-wren Plaza, 210 N. Bonifacio St., Mandaluyong, presents an exhibit by Allan Casas, entitled "Casas Rustics," until Sept. 16. Call 8923161.

"HUDES," by Allan Casas

### Muñoz at Drawing Room

Eliza Muñoz presents "Stereotex," until Sept. 15 in The Drawing Room, Bellevue Building, 1307 Mid-Levitical Avenue, Makati. Her works is grounded on the unbalancing of human tension, longing and intimacy. She explores the weather within and during November through an elegant mix of dissolution landscapes and floating silhouettes. Call 8810466 or 893 7371.

### Santos at Silverlens

Drawing broadcasts from the Renaissance period, Mediterranean mixed-pornographer Emmanuel Santos presents "The Passing of Light," Sept. 6 - Oct. 7 in Silverlens Gallery, 2330 Pasong Tamo Ext., Wha-Wha on 2. Yacengco Bldg. See 38 prior-topographs in the exhibition are their inspirations from the body sculptures of the Bible, Greek and Roman. Call 8160044

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THE SOFTER SIDE!...

THAT WOODWORK TOWEL RACK LOOKS GREAT IN THE BATHROOM

REALLY GOES WELL WITH THE SHOWER CURTAIN

NOT A BACHELORS BASH

PUGAD BABOY — BY ROY LUCIANO

KUNG MAY MAGSASABI NA ANG PANGIT MO, SABIHIN MO NA LANG NA MAGANDA KA

# LIFESTYLE

**WHITE Cross in San Juan, designed by National Artist Pablo Antonio in 1938 for Victoria Lopez Arnaiz, is now an important Art Deco icon in Philippine architecture.**

Photo book defines the Filipina soul, while a pioneer landscape architect states design principles

PRIME OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

## Harvest of culture and design books

THIS IS THE SEASON TO HARVEST THE yearly harvest of new books. Adding to the 2007 bounty are three books scheduled for release this month: "Filipina" by Isa Lorenzo, "Artworks, a Love Affair with God and Country" by Lina Acuzena Santiago, and "Home, Haven, Heaven" by landscape architect Dolly G. Perez.

"Filipina" is a powerful collection of black and white photographs of 30 women who have shaped not only their nation but also influenced their own professions and communities.

Although photographer Lorenzo shoots Philippine role models respected for courage and commitment, each of her subjects is a recognized cultural icon who is in

HARVEST | 12

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# Journal makes faith more accessible

By Linda B. Bufalo

THE CATHOLIC DIGEST, THE 71-year-old religious publication packaged for popular readership, is remaking its 'Philippines' edition.

In a press conference during the second Manila International Book Fair at the World Trade Center, Livie B. Sandoval, president and chief executive officer of A-Z Direct Marketing, Inc., said the magazine was making its comeback in the country after an absence of about three years.

Sandoval said the magazine first appeared in the country in 1980 and ended its local run in 2004.

Now published by the Bayard Customer Magazine Group, a division of Bayard Inc., and sponsored by Augustinian of the Assumption, the magazine is billed as "the only Catholic publication devoted exclusively to connecting faith and everyday life."

Debuting in 1936, Catholic Digest is considered to have a readership of 2.5 million at present.

Sandoval said, while other religious publications tended to be "preachy" and didactic, Catholic Digest articles were livelier and easier to read.

### Real stories

Rev. Didier Fermier, executive vice president of Bayard Inc., pointed out that features in the magazine were people's real stories of faith. Columns were meant to respond to questions related to everyday life, not just matters of faith.

Sandoval, whose company will distribute the magazine locally, expressed the hope they could eventually add Filipino stories, though packaged for international audiences, to tackle the predominantly appeal to local readers.

He noted that, locally Catholic publishing was on a downward. But, he said, the country was full of inspiring stories that Filipinos would easily relate to if these were made into "friendly" .

Sandoval is also open to the idea of having the Catholic Digest published in Filipino. He said in a recent meeting of local book publishers that it was the consensus that "Filipino books sell better than those in English even if they cost the same."

However, he said they would have to trade carefully the cost of the project as finding good translators would not be easy. They would also have to be compensated well for their efforts.

"It may cost a lot (to have the magazine translated)," he said.

Didier agreed that logistics would be a critical factor. He said, in Belgium, despite its small population, the journal was published in both Dutch and French because both languages had viable markets.

He said in the short term a translation would not be feasible. However, "if there is a strong desire for a Filipino translation, we will consider it (but we have to take into account) financial viability."

The annual cover price for Catholic Digest, which has just released its September edition, is P1,440.

A-Z Direct Marketing Inc. is at 723 Sgt. Rentoy St., Pio Del Pilar, Makati City; customer service 5187078, fax 5183599, e-mail livsan@mailbwest.com.ph.

# Anvil is Publisher of the Year

ANVIL PUBLISHING INC. WAS NAMED Publisher of the Year as the 26th Manila Centro Circle National Book Awards last Aug. 31 at the Manila International Booksellers Hotel Trade Center, Pasay City.

Ezekiel Bolante, publishing manager for Anvil, received the award, which recognizes the Filipino publisher that released the best books in 2006. This was Anvil's second consecutive Publisher of the Year award after 2004.

Anvil published 14 books that were finalists for the awards.

ED Architecture of the Philippines Edwin Ramos received a citation for supporting Philippine literature through the publication of an outstanding children's book. MCC chair Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta delivered the closing remarks.

Books collectively known as "Tinalhin Family Heritage Cookbook," edited by Janice C. Laya and Adolfo S. Lim, Anvil, Denisa. "Tips Pinamgang Dula," by Lou Gerado, De La Salle University Press, Rodrigo Perez III, Anvil.

The Three Day William Burns Secret Booklet," edited by Danielle Barrozo Ocampo, Three Day Educational. "Tanghalang Pinoy: 100 Years of Schoolchildren Education, 1906-2006," published by St. Scholastica's College, which won Best Book on Education.

Founded in 1981, the Manila Critics Circle Inc. is a nonprofit, nonstock organization of professional critics in cultural and investment publications. Current members are National Artist Virgilio S. Almario, Juanito Arellano, Cirilo F. Bautista, Fr. Miguel A. Bernad, S.J., Isagani R. Cruz, Buenaventura S. Medina Jr., Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta (chair), Basil S. Magsaysay, Bienvenido N. Santos, Rolando B. Tolentino and Alfred E. Yuson.

The complete list of winners:

Anthology: "The Manila We Knew" edited by Rolando Bautista Pandilla, Anvil. Ani Alfonso T. Ongpin Award for Best Book on Arts: "Into The Life and Art of Hermogenes Ilumbaldo Ongpin," by Marjorie Evasco, Bookmark Foundation. Publishing Team: "Bienvenidos from the Heart: Art, Revue, The First Five Years," by Alice O. Guillermo, Peter Corp. Biography/Autobiography: "Beyond the Great Wall: A Family Journal," by Abalos, Alice, Marungganing and Ramon Muñoz, Anvil. "Kapatiran: Grey Lopez and the Making of ABS-CBN," by Raul Rodrigo, ABS-CBN Publishing. "Sipnayan Like Where," by Carmen Icasiano Makil, Makil Publishing. Katrolyo Award on Filipinas Award for Best Book on Business and Economics: "Cocoune: The Philippines' Money Tree," by Renato M. Lubasco, SM Lubasco and Associates and University Research and Resource Center. Children's Literature: "Bal Kings," by Gilda Cordero Fernando, Anvil. "The Cat Painter," by Becky Bravo, Adarna House. Cookbooks and Food: "The Governor General's Kitchen: Philippine Culinary Vignettes and Period Recipes, 1521-1935," by Rilyn Pendoro Sta. Maria, Anvil.

"Pinoy Heritage: Cookbook," edited by Janice C. Laya and Adolfo S. Lim, Anvil. Denisa. "Tips Pinamgang Dula," by Lou Gerado, De La Salle University Press, Rodrigo Perez III, Anvil.

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# Harvest of culture and design books

From page E1

AMBASSADOR Rosario Manalo's portraits appear in the book "Filipinas" by Isa Lorenzo.

and touch with the ordinary, day-to-day world. Lorenzo captures inner radiance, brings out the wistful, the playful, and the feminine that humanize her subjects, despite their being women of power.

Since its launch at the Cultural Center of the Philippines a few years ago, the "Filipinas" exhibition has traveled to various Manila locations and overseas to the Unesco headquarters in Paris. Once again the photographs are on public view in the new Fully Booked at Bonifacio High Street, Taguig, Sept. 14-17.

The images are now gathered in a luxurious, handsome publication designed by Isabel Roman to be launched in a book signing event with the author on Sept. 14 in Fully Booked High Street.

### Araneta legacy

On Sept. 26, Santiago Araneta's her book, "Araneta: A Love Affair with God and Country," a daughter's account of her ancestors of the intertwined lives of the Arnetas, Zaragozas, Lopezs and Ledesmas families.

Not only does the author look into family history, their political and religious views, and economic activities, the book also offers a glimpse of a remarkable lifestyle of people from a succession of eras locked in the past that can never return.

Victorians, the 10-room Araneta home in wood Mandaluyong of 1933, was the source of family life. In "Remembrance of Things Past," Augusto Gonzales III asserts: "It was a splendid life, a privileged life, a life of ease, a style of existence that spreadsheet on 1.7 hectares... in the style of the grand residences designed by Addison Mizner in Palm Beach Florida's. These prominent architects were employed in succession to complete the villa: Juan Arellano, Lutrio and Andres Luna de San Pedro.

For her favorite charity project, Victoria Lopez-Araneta commissioned the young architect Pablo Antonio, now elevated to National Artist for Architecture, to design the White Cross Dovecotes in Sucat, San Juan, as a fresh air retreat for recuperating tuberculosis patients.

Araneta's positively innovative Art Deco design builds around a central courtyard. Its quiet, peaceful beauty, with its fountain garden, Buid Doric by Francesco Monti, a highly talented Italian expatriate sculptor, relieves the rigidity of the sharp, linear facade.

Now jointly designated by the CCP and the United Architects of the Philippines as one of the important landmarks of Philippine architecture, the White Cross building has survived through the years and, since penicillin has rendered preventive measures, continues to be used today as an orphanage.

Santiago launches her book on Sept. 26 at the White Cross. All sales proceeds are donated to White Cross.

### Tatal home

Next, a pioneer female landscape architect in the Philippines, spokesmen over 20 years of private professional practice in her first book, "Home, Sweet, Heaven."

Although the subtitle, redundant, she writes about the total home environment rather than only gardens that, as she believes, form the totality of the home.

Her book "is not a collection of architectural masterpieces, it provides the homeowner with tools for challenging such designers... helpful for those in various stages of homebuilding..." and definitely helpful for those who prefer to do their homes themselves.

It is a book that encourages homemakers to create their own landscaping out of common pitfalls that stand in the way of making a house a home, encouraging that people feel 'at home' in their own dwellings" rather than living by the dictates of a designer.

Brica takes us on a journey that avoids "monotonous" designed showcase houses. If one's house she visits are professionally designed, she chooses examples where owners personality directs designer directions.

She leads us through every private, lived in home, opened to public spas for the first time, chosen for the book because they provide nurturing spaces for the owners and their families to live and their lives in the manner that suits them best.

Rich visuals photographed by the Gamboa Illustrate each of the three chapters, "From Home to Home," "From Home to Haven," and "From Haven to Heaven," that express sumptuous images living home. Brica's vision that personal comfort is really what living is all about.

"Filipinas" is available in Fully Booked High Street. For information on "Araneta, a Love Affair with God and Country," e-mail wechi@i-next.net or call White Cross at 7262040. Information on "Home, Sweet, Heaven" will be published in this column later.

### Heritage watch

Outstanding photographs of modern Philippine cultural events by Paulo Alcazaren are exhibited until Sept. 29 in Shangri-La Mall, Mezzanine, BGHC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati.

E-mail the author at pridyk@hotmail.com

## 2007 Palanca winners

MULTI-AWARDED PLAYwright and poet Nicholas P. Pichay has been selected to the Palanca Hall of Fame after winning his fifth first prize with his full-length play entry, "Ermo Mikasito de Corazon," in the 2007 Palanca Awards.

Pichay's previous five first prizes were in Tagalog short story, two of which pushed three winners, a record.

### Filipino Division

**Dulang Pambata:** First prize, Miguel G. Rivera Jr.'s "Wikain Kaya" (Let's Guess); honorable mention R. Manuel "PAOKO" Viray; third prize, Rene Patricia P. Dimla ("Bida").

**Dulang Ganap ang Gulang:** First prize, Nicolas B. Pichay ("Tres Marias de Corpus"); second prize, Edward P. Rivera ("Figuretuner"); third prize, Rodel N. E. Reno "Ang Mga Kawal").

**Dulang may Isang Tagpo:** First prize, Christopher B. Martinez ("Sun Lady at Jalaga"); second prize, Jose Dennis E. Ventenilla ("Bako Sahul"); third prize, Lilibeth P. Rivera ("Mga Inosentes").

**Sanaysay:** First prize, Annalyn L. Lacuna ("Buhay Dahayan"); second prize, Ms. Jovita E. Zarate ("Sa Huli Lang ang Isang Bagay"); third prize, Ramon Bagtasdela Pasaoa ("Bel").

**Kabataan Sanaysay:** First prize, Anne Jarrel Victoria U. Vargas ("Ang Halong Ngiting Pagdating"); second prize, Mary Anne Abrio, Baco ("Isang Sigla, Isang Dalangin"); third prize, Ma. Ellen Joy Ramos ("Sulat Para Sa Ama").

**Tula:** First prize, Eurbe M. Pasadilla II ("Corpus"); second prize, Rolando T. Tolentino ("Pagbilanguan Ng Pag-Ibig"); third prize, Ronald L. Sunera ("Tinig, Mga...").

**Maikling Kwentong Pambata:** first prize, Sheila Socorro Abella Estella ("Lumot"); second prize, Joachim Emilio B. Antonio-Hong Kong ("Ang Tinggang Pinapa"); third prize, Michael M. Coscolo ("Inimbitadi Manong Taky").

**Maikling Kwento:** First prize, Allan Alord N. Dimain ("Papalayo ng Lalo"); second prize, Jerome R. Ramos ("Desperado, Bar Dancer"); third prize, Dana Balmaz ("3 Bampy's Chronicles... D Anamorong Mga Tao sa Bayang Walang Hiya").

**Maikling Kwento-Colayan:** First prize, Elmer M. Abucay ("Pamela"); second prize, Ferdinand L. Bulos ("Misad-Misad Ma'am"); third prize, Noel P. Taveros ("Kombat sa Bisang Dagmal").

**Nobela:** First prize, Peter Solis Nery ("Candido"); second prize, Felino Rubio Garcia Jr. ("Sa Hinagpisan"); third prize, no winner.

**Maikling Kwento-Iloko:** First prize, Rod S. Dunlao ("Pantalapigan"); second prize, Bernardo B. Gallaban ("Dana ti pilipinas Addang ni Kilarang Rod"); third prize, Aurelio S. Agcaoili ("Alimpuyogak di Panagsao a Anonggar").

### English Division

**Full-Length Play:** First prize, Jeremiah Taleon Soriano ("Pure"); second prize, Jessie Sevilla Mari ("Sarnen People Play"); third prize, Cynthia Lapar Au-Deocaris ("The Piano").

**One-Act Play:** First prize, Debbie-Ann Tani "Tina Rimbs"); second prize, Joshua L. Lim Sr. ("Portraits"); third prize, Allan Lopez ("Battery Park").

**Poetry:** First prize, Gilbert de Loon Lim ("Words for a Hybrid of Form"); second prize, Jose Rizal Ermanto Bramzon Reyes ("Imaginary Numbers"); third prize, Simon Rene Bautista ("Sonnet for a Physician of Light").

**Short Story:** First prize, Angelo R. Lacuesta ("Flames"); second prize, Douglas James Lhuge Candano ("Dreaming Wahida"); third prize, Eliezer Saul Shanghaan Kho ("Banks Seduces Last Creation").

**Short Story for Children:** First prize, Lakambini Sitoy ("The Elusive Creature"); second prize, Dean Francis Alfar ("Poon, Poor Lolat"); third prize, Ian Rematalla Casocot ("The Last Days of Magic").

**Essay:** First prize, Wilfredo E. Pascual Jr. ("Lost in Dili-downsville"); second prize, Rosalinda Lazaro Manzelmas ("Caitlyn Shocked, A Story of Recovery"); third prize, Allan J. Paniza ("The Lady's Tale").

**Rolodans Essay:** first prize, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo ("Writing (To Move, Not...Inspiration and Good Survival Tools for the 21st Century Filipino"); second prize, Juan Gonsunan F. Gatchon ("Sterling Pinoy"); third prize, Rolando L. Dy ("Adaptability").

Published since 1950, the late Don Carlos Palanca Sr., the Palanca Awards aims to serve as an incentive for Filipino writers to craft their outstanding literary works; to serve as a repository of Filipino literary masterpieces; and to disseminate the public especially students.

# Lascano at Astra

RICO LASCANO'S "LIQUID Prose" is running in Galeria Astra (2/L, 128 Jacinto Plaza, Nicanor Garcia St., Dernarch Reposo), 9a.m. to 11, Mabuhi City.

"As an artist, I've always been drawn to the visual language of water," says Lascano.

"Water brings me to a state of pure contemplation. Its translucent depth invokes a rich palette of emotions. Its serene quiet, its shimmering ripples of the profusion of thoughts and feelings I am experiencing.

"In water I find a deep and soulful connection. Whether I'm capturing the image of a serene pond, a meandering river or a surging stream, there's a quiet language, a lyrical ritual, a tantalizing tale that owns to endlessly flow in the pictorial space of my canvas.

"Send us on liquid prose, I give you the words of the waves, veiled with the mental whispers of breathtakings, and reverently translated on the canvas by injecting of washed hues."

The show runs until Sept. 7. Call 894-1986.

"LIQUID Prose" I

THE BOOK gathers essays by F. Sionil José (using/holding a copy), Alfred Yuson and Vicente Groyon on the 400th anniversary of the publication of "Don Quixote."

BOOK LOVERS have their copies signed by the authors.

JOSE and economist-historian Benito Legarda

INSTITUTO Cervantes director José "Pepe" Rodríguez, José, Vicente Groyon and Tessie José

# Quixotic, romantic book launching

IT WAS A QUIXOTIC AND WILDLY HEROIC act and romantic evening when the Instituto Cervantes, the dynamic Spanish-cultural agency, led by its Depper Manila director, José "Pepe" Rodríguez, launched "If a FIL tyme Writer Reads Don Quixote," last Aug. 30, at the World Trade Center in connection with the 2007 Manila International Book Fair.

Co-published with the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, the book is a collection of essays by National Artist F. Sionil José, Alfred Yuson and Vicente Groyon, on the novel by Miguel de Cervantes.

The essays were originally written and presented in 2005 in commemoration the 400th anniversary of the novel, which is universally acclaimed as the first and the greatest novel of all time.

Hispanophiles and book-lovers, young and old alike, flocked to the launching. Among them were economist, historian and former Central Bank official Benito Legarda; poet-physician Alice Sun-Gaz; and writer-executive Anna Meñia.

Also there were top functionaries from Instituto Cervantes and UST Publishing House such as José Ma. Sison, Joselyn Dalan Calubayan, artist Boots Calubayan, Josh Wrigley and Inocencio Alvir, editor and UST professor Lito Zulueta, who wrote the book's introduction.

"If a Filipino Writer Reads Don Quixote" is available in major bookstores. Call Instituto Cervantes at 526.1462, 63, or UST Publishing House at 731.3221, 406.1611 loc. 8202, 8276.

# Seminar-workshop on creativity for teachers rescheduled

"FLIGHTS OF FANCY: A CALL TO CREATIVity and the Creative Teaching of Literature," the two-day faculty seminar and workshop organized by the University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies (USTCCWS) for literature, creative writing and English professors will push through on Sept. 29-28.

The seminar-workshop, which will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Research Center, is designed to equip professors with the working tools with which to approach, analyze and critique poetry and prose; the imaginative approach in effectively teaching these works in academic and a number of reading suggestions that are abreast with the best of Philippine literature in English and Filipino.

Meant to be interactive, the seminar-workshop offers a venue where participants can gain insight into the creative process of writers who are themselves teachers and share the challenges they face in teaching literature.

Led by UST CCWS director Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta and senior associate Carlo Benitez, speakers include literature professor Mike Coroza, and CCWS poetry associates and writers Mandito Ilado, Ives Ardis and Catherine Arrogante Cusana. Invoicing of certificates will sign the seminar.

Seminar fee is P3,000 for early birds, which already covers meals and kits. Walk-in participants will be charged P3,500. Limited slots only. Deadline for reserving a slot is Sept. 15. Call 406.1611 loc. 8201 or e-mail the_ustcchild@yahoo.com.

## *Kaisa marks 20th year with 'Tsinoy' play*

FROM IMPOVERISHED IMMIGRANTS who left China to save their kin from famine, to a young law enthusiast who gave up his life to rescue a Pinoy family, the Tsinoy has traversed thousands of years in Philippine history, leaving their invaluable imprint on Philippine society.

This story is depicted in an entertaining and insightful musical revue called "Tsinoy Kaisa Ka!" The show is written and directed by renowned theater director Nonoy Tiuseo, whose acclaimed productions "Magnificat," "Magmimula Ka," "Where ng Gaymaan," and "Ang Ating sa Buyan" have been shown all over the country.

A fundraiser for Kaisa Para sa Batang Pinoy's 20th anniversary, this theatrical event will be presented on Sept. 14 and 15. Regular runs of the revue are scheduled on Nov. 4 and 5 at the Kaisa-Angelo King Heritage Center in Intramuros.

Original songs written and composed by Vicky Abo Abo, Nicolas Tiuseo and Jose Mendiola are sung by a gifted cast of Tsinoy performers: Sherwin Sioson, Daphne Chia, Helen Lim Bonoan, Eva Maria Sison, Joel Edwin Ong, Liesbeth Valerie Yap, Lorraine Ting, Edwin Tan and Ang Hock Chi.

Production design is by Leo Abaja and lights are by Bhattie Tiuseo. Custom appointments will be made by leading Tsinoy personalities, as further underscore the Chinese-Filipino community's deep involvement in Kaisa's projects.

The 20th anniversary show will raise funds for the Heritage Center, which houses Dr. Bailey Tsinoy museum.

Call 527-6861, 526-4796 or 462-0512 or e-mail kaisa@skyinfoline.com or kaisadevelop@yahoo.com. The Kaisa Angelo King Heritage Center is at 22 Beaterio cor. Calderón Sts., Intramuros, Manila.

CHORUS Philippines

# Chorus Philippines at Paco Park

CHORUS PHILIPPINES, ONE OF THE country's leading chamber choirs, opens Paco Park Presents' second season this year on Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Titled "Around the World in 60 Minutes," the concert will feature well-loved folk and pop songs from Asia, Philippines, Europe and America as arranged by choirmaster Joy T. Ilda.

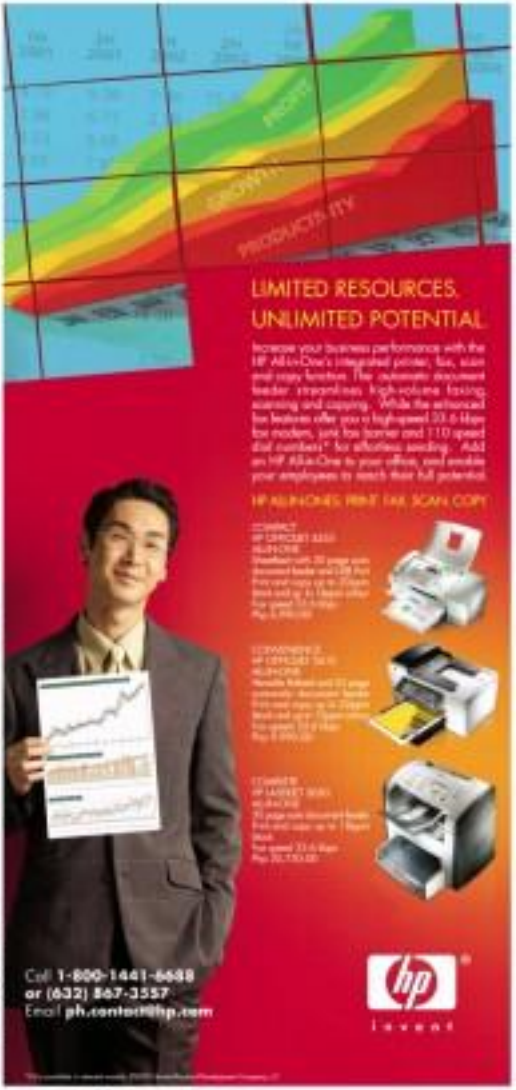
The three-part program opens with Asian folk tunes, namely Kecak Lenggot and Singapura Medley (Indonesia); Aqua Ito Dalal; Bungawan Solo (Indonesia); Lai Rendang (Thailand); Xin Mei Ni Ke (Taiwan).

Also to be featured are Filipino folk tunes such as Chua-ay (Ifugao); Maliwanag Gabi (Pangasinan); Sitong Sa Noong Ako (Ilocos); Bantulinin (Bicol); Bonse Nicolas (Cebu).

The choir will also render a capella arrangements of "The First Time I Loved Forever" from "Beauty and the Beast," Negro spiritual song "Soon Ah Will Be Done," Abba's "Super Trouper" and "The Beatles' "I Will."

Founded in 2002, Chorus Philippines is composed of church choristers, professionals and conservatory students brought together by the passion for serving folk and classical music.

Admission to "Paco Park Presents" is free.



# 45 years of the Asian Social Institute

**ASI aims to train leaders and policy-makers in the Philippines and in Asia to help bring to fruition the social teachings of the Church**

By Visitacion R. de la Torre
Core Buzz

THE ASIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE (ASI), now housed in a complex of three-story buildings in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, sometimes referred to as "the ASI area," was founded in 1962 by a Dutch missionary of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM), Fr. Frans Jeurissen, PhD.

It began as a graduate school with two programs, sociology and economics, and has become one of the country's premier graduate schools, with courses in Economics, Education, Sociology, Political Sociology, and Social Work, as well as a doctorate degree in Applied Cosmic Anthropology and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

ASI aims to train leaders and policy-makers in the Philippines and in Asia to help bring about "in socio-religious concerns the social teachings of the Church." In other words, ASI basically helps to produce socially oriented men and women and institutions that will assist in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, the dominant culture with the popular culture, the person with his or her environment. It offers a new look at life that favors the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized.

At ASI president Sr. Mina M. Ramirez emphasizes, "The main problems plaguing our society—monetary poverty, violence and degradation of the environment—victimize especially the basic sectors, the fisherfolk, farmers, indigenous groups, urban communities, children, youth and women. They have led to what I believe is the fragmentation of body, mind and spirit, causing deep division in society—economic, cultural, social, intergenerational, digital, and ecological. All sciences—physical, human, social and metaphysical—should get integrated to promote the fullness of life for all."

To many people who know ASI, it is more than a school: it is a movement, a world view, a community of faith. Its main objective is to train social development managers and encourage the self-empowerment of grassroots leaders and communities. Through this process, ASI has given birth to social development organizations such as Student Home, one of Manila's first halfway houses for street children; Social Action for Rural and Urban Development Inc., a marketing arm, locally and abroad, for 32 handicraft producers; many Galaxie (Cavite, Laguna, Rizal Fisherfolk); Lakas ng Maralitang Ilocanod Organization of Marginalized Urban Dwellers), and Center for Small Enterprises.

## Doctoral program

ASI has developed a doctoral program, known as Applied Cosmic Anthropology, based on Semlon's philosophy of part and whole integration.

Fr. Eymard S. Pelagio, new vice president of Emily's University of Asia, says, "The influence of the Applied Cosmic Anthropology Program in me has led me to think beyond the conventional, beyond the tangibles, and has made me reflect on the need for an integrated whole. The interconnectedness of beings to other beings, to the rest of creation, and to the universe has always reminded me to be holistic in terms of planning and decision-making."

Sicoller graduate, Dr. Rene de la Cruz, program director of the General Education Department of St. Paul University, Quezon City, says, "The course itself is both a journey and a shift to a deeper understanding of human existence, a recognition of one's interconnectedness, and a creation of conditions for transformation and sustainable development. It upholds the principles of a sustainable future which includes the quality of life, justice and equality, participation and partnership, care for the environment, and thought for the future."

For those who like to enrich the spirit of faith and solidarity, ASI offers several flagship courses. Among these are the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Workshop, the Project Planning and Development Seminar, Training for Community Executives, Principles, Methods and Application in Research, Paralegal Seminars, etc.

Visit www.asiasm.online.org.

## *Ateneo community service awards handed out*

MIRIAM COLLEGE UNIVERSITY gave out community service and excellence awards recently.

The awardees were Fr. Edmund Malone, MSC, for the Ildefonso Pichel Award in Memory of Fr. Manuel Sempertegui, S.J.; doctors Asa M. Tongco and Charlie L. Chong, for the Outstanding Award; public school principal Benjamin G. Galing, for the Government Service Award; Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Inc. (Kasan), for the Gerardo Limpioco Bambaranan; and the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Pheta), for the Conrad Tinglao ng Lahi.

Sicher Shalom was recognized for his significant contributions to the development of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference since its inception in 1972.

Kaisa was recognized for its initiative in nation-building and in helping Chinese-Filipinos with other communities to enable their meaningful participation in social development, cultural and educational activities.

Pena was recognized for its vision of using theater as a powerful tool for social change and development.

Tongco was recognized for his 25 years of advocacy for cooperative health systems to better deliver health services to the poor.

Chong was recognized for his commitment and dedication in serving the poor people of the Cordilleras.

Galing was recognized for his zeal for the improvement of public education.

AT THE ATENEO de Manila University Awards: Ms. Isabel Legarda, Pets artistic director Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who received the award on behalf of Father Malone; Benjamin Caling

Mr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, Ateneo president; Dr. Charles Chong, Dr. José Tongco, and Eleanor Tomas of Kaisa

# ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Emmie G. Valerio

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## GMA 7 eyes RP 'Idol'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THERE'S BEEN persistent talk that "Philippine Idol" is moving from ABC 5 to GMA 7 for its second season.

"We've heard that," confirmed Perci Intalan, ABC 5 head of creative and entertainment production. "But last week, we were still discussing with Fox, mandelbrotin ["Idol" franchise holder] ... about producing our own 'Philippine Idol,' but also Nestor told."

"Philippine Idol" winner Mon Mercado is set to compete with other country champs in "Asian Idol," set to Indonesia this November.

Noel Nuñez, manager of "Idol" host Ryan Agoncillo, told Inquirer Entertainment that his talent was committed to do ABC 5's "Asian Idol" special...which would feature the preparation of Manoda for the regional contest.

According to Intalan, ABC 5 is all set to continue the local "Idol." However, he admitted that it was not entirely "transferable" for GMA 7 to be to talks with Fernando because it's producing the local version of "Celebrity Duets" and is airing Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? [on sister station QTV]. Both are Fox shows. I wouldn't be surprised if other networks would be interested, "Idol" generated a lot of buzz for ABC 5."

### Option no guarantee

Although ABC 5 has the "option," it's not "assured" of a second season, said another source.

A GMA 7 insider confirmed, "The network is in the process of short-listing celebrity judges for 'Idol 2'."

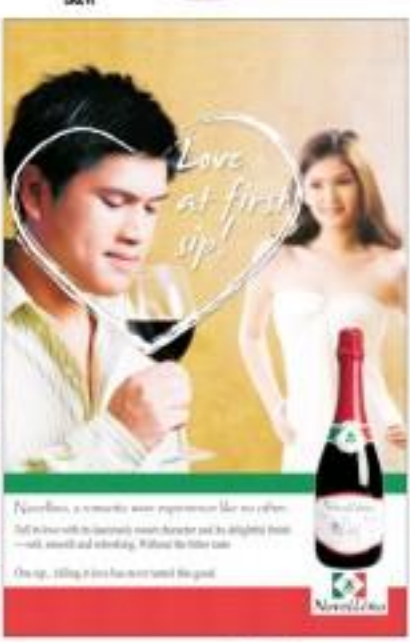
However, according to the source, host Ryan Agoncillo and main judge Ryan Cayabyab are both still attached to the show.

Tonight for comment, Ryan Cayabyab noted, "I am not part of the 'Idol' package. I'm just a hired talent. The producers are free to get whoever they want [in my stead]."

GMA 11

## Stop bickering!

HTRCB chair Marina Lagsuardia, center, steps into the fray, urges Joey and Willie to "patch things up." • Page G2 .



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## CHEER FACTOR

**Soft spot for Hillary Clinton**
DEAUVILLE, FRANCE—Actor Michael Douglas said on Thursday he would be "very happy" if Hillary Clinton became the next US president. "I would like my president to have pillow talks with their husband and ex-president Bill Clinton," he said. AFP

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International flavor/wheels! We big deal. Come in your happiest mood and/or most candy gear! French writer Frederic Beigbeder, above, arrives at the opening of the American film festival in Deauville, France, pressing in his ear. French singer Charlotte Gainsbourg, far right, a member of the jury at Deauville, meanwhile, leaves the walking starts. British actress Vanessa Redgrave, above right, waves a hand during the 41st Vesoul International Film Festival wearing a granny scarf. Also in Vesoul, George Clooney, right, didn't bother to share.


GREENHILLS CINEMAS

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PROMENADE

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## GMA 7 eyes . . .

Pressuring it's

A network insider said Fernandez had reportedly "recommended" that the two Nyors still be part of the show's second season.

However, Cayabyab reiterated, "Wherever the 'Idol' show is aired, I hope that it will continue to promote Filipino talent. I'm all for anything that helps the Pinoy artist."

### Ongoing

Another network insider, however, insisted that GMA 7 was still negotiating with Fernandez.

"Talks are ongoing. Nothing is final yet," said the insider.

GMA 7 is reportedly eyeing a February 2008 launch for its "Idol."

### Sure deal

What is certain, though, is that GMA 7 will do the local version of "Are You Smarter," with Janice Gildo as host, the network insider said.

In the end, according to sources back from ABC 5 and GMA 7, the fate of "Philippine Idol" rests on ABC 5 big boss Tony Boy Cojuangco and Fernandez.

"Whether or not the show will continue on ABC 5 is entirely up to him and Fernandez," said the source.

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# Kjwan on Ikon win: They were scared of us

Text and Photos by Jude Thaddeus Ravelda, Correspondent

THE MALAYSIANS WERE SCARED OF whoever would win in the Philippine finals," Kjwan lead singer Marc Abaya said recounting their recently at Gipsee's Bar in Makati, where the celebration for the band's triumph at the Season Ikon grand finals was in full swing.

"To be honest with you," Abaya went on, "any one of the four finalist bands here could've kicked ass and won in Kuala Lumpur. Our country is home to the best musicians in the world!"

Kjwan had gone through a tense musical contest against Kids and Toys (both at the Philippine finals, Guest Judge Jose Mari Chan had considered Toys Fatich as "more melodious than the other bands."

But Carlos Siasoy, former Toys Fatich guitarist who now plays with Francis Magalona, described Kjwan's music, thus:

### Distinct appeal

"It can loosen closely, it has a strong funk influences. What people don't realize is that this music is representative of how rock is currently evolving. They've been around for four years and they really deserve it. I'm proud of Kjwan."

Aaron Ikon is a contest by professional singers and bands whose talents deserve wider exposure in the Southeast Asian Region.

Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines fielded contestants, who were required to perform original songs written by, or for, them.

Vina Morales was in the singers category while Kjwan was adjudged the best in the bands division. Both took home $25,000 to cash prizes.

### Cool funk metal

The Malaysian band GAG was a heavy favorite while the Indonesian group Tikus had its own set of fans in Malaysia. But it was Kjwan's cool brand of funk metal and distinct appeal that clinched the title.

What made the grand finals different from all qualifying rounds was that the winner would be determined solely by a panel of judges. (In the elimination rounds, a certain percentage was allotted for text voting.)

Marc Abaya: 'Any of the Pinoy finalists could've kicked ass in Kuala Lumpur. Our country is home to the best musicians'

KELLY MANGHANAS

KJWAN at the victory party.

Each country was represented by one judge: Mat Chow (Malaysia), Indi Kow Bailey (Indonesia) and Eugene Villatuya (Philippines), plus Iskandar Mirza Ismail (Singapore).

On finals night, Kjwan, whose members all wore black silk suits, performed "Invitation," a track from its second album "Buo-Ang Muro."

Man Member' first song was "Pangako Sa Yo." Sire boarders rendition conveyed an emotion that broke the language barrier.

In a cell phone interview, Vina's male Indonesian competitor, Judika, said, "I didn't know what the words meant but I felt it was about love. Vina has a beautiful face and an incredible voice. I really want to collaborate with her soon."

So Vina had one more sex up her sleeve—her own dance moves. "Feels So Nice." She pulled off one impressive dance move after another.

Her G-force dancer lifted her off the ground and then spun her around with her arms raised as if she was flying. And then the other partner handed her the mic just in time for her to belt out high notes, without her voice faltering.

At that point, the Malay crowd had given her a standing ovation.

### Goose bumps

Kjwan drummer Jhoon Ballesteros said, "The whole crowd got goose bumps when they found themselves singing along to "Pangako Sa Yo." Abaya added, "Vina won their hearts. She was amazing."

Ballesteros added, "I think the judges proved they weren't biased by thinking of the kind of music that's reflective of Asia. They judged regardless of genre and race. GAG is a great band whose songwriters had a peculiar sense of humor. But we're also quite different. Hopefully, we've reached a wider audience."

Ikon Philippines Artists Management Director Tarinky Legislanes described the friendships and camaraderie that developed between the performers from each country.

### Sincere, professional

"Everybody was so supportive and professional. You could see that they were all sincere. Some of them want to collaborate with each other. And there's so much great music out there that we don't know about," Legislanes said.

Kjwan bassist Kelley Mangahas echoed Tarinky's sentiments. "We are humbled by the experience. GAG's members are really nice guys. They're very respectful. We've even made friends with them."

Legislanes explained that the goal of Ikon was achieved. She said, "In people and as artists, all the talents were in top form. The winning part is good for the Philippines. My choices and musical instincts were validated by other people in the region. My concern] that with the right opportunity we really can make it."

Ikon who missed the grand finals, the Philippine finals and the semis may log on to Pulse.ph.

THE ACTRESS, here shown in Venice, is suspected of using anorexia.

# Focus on films, not my figure, says Keira

VENICE—BRITISH ACTRESS Keira Knightley has had enough of journalists' questions about her looks and figure, and urged people to focus on her films instead.

Promoting her latest movie, "Atonement," the 22-year-old star of the hit "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise fielded questions about her curves during a news conference here.

"It's really frustrating, particularly when you have an intelligent film," she told Reuters. "It's a thought-provoking film you can have a really good discussion about."

She added: "It's just a shame that it had to be brought up ... we all know it was [coming]," she added, referring to the cast and crew of "Atonement" with her at the conference.

"We actually had a bet going. I was like 'Come on, how many times [is] anorexia or something about my body, going to come up?'"

Knightley is the subject of constant tabloid press coverage of whether she is anorexic, what example the size girls and young women and who she is linked with romantically.

"I think what I want to keep it about is the work, that's all I'm interested in," she insisted.

Nominated for an Oscar in the 2005 film "Pride and Prejudice," the actress said she was her own worst critic.

"If you really want me to cut my part to pieces," she said, "I absolutely can and I don't want to get to a day where I can't."

Reuters

# *Fall Out Boy plays Sept. 21 at the Big Dome*

FALL OUT BOY [FOB], AN AMERICAN ROCK band from Illinois whose current album has gone straight to the top of the charts, performs on Sept. 21 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Formed in 2001, FOB is composed of Patrick Stump (lead vocals, rhythm guitar and primary songwriter), Pete Wentz (bass guitar, backup vocals and lyricist), Joe Trohman (lead guitarist and Andy Hurley (drums).

Influenced by such bands as Green Day, the Descendents and the Smiths, FOB has won several awards for its debut album, "From Under the Cork Tree" (MCA Music), released in 2005, the album went double platinum, selling more than 2.3 million copies in the US alone.

In February 2007, the band released "Infinite on High" to major chart success, reaching no. 1 on the Billboard 200 and selling 260,000 copies on its first week. The lead single, "This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race," was no. 1 on the Pop 100 and no. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Tickets to the Araneta concert are available at SM tickets. Log on to www.smpfd.com, view your choice of seats and reserve your tickets. Those who buy their tickets online will bring home an exclusive collector's edition MTV all Things Books shirt.

FALL OUT BOY

## Show Time

### Music, magic, 'lugaw'

The Asian Social Institute (ASI) celebrates its 45th foundation anniversary with "Music, Magic and Lugaw" on Sept. 8 at the Makati Shrine, Woods' Trade Center, Ilonia Boulevard, Pasay City.

The event features singers Sophie Mon and Enrique Sharon, street magic performers Leilani and Majic Sarmiento of the Story Circle, and the Aquila String Quartet.

All, headed by the late Rev. Fr. Francis Sandico, CICM, is a graduate school of the social sciences on Leon Guinto, Manila.

Call 523-4938, 833-6922 to 523-3403.

### Switchfoot at Cuneta

Switchfoot, a Courtney-nominated alternative rock band from San Diego, California known for its energetic live shows, is set to play at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City on Sept. 13.

The group first gained mainstream recognition after the inclusion of four of their songs in the 2002 movie "A Walk to Remember." The band's latest album, "Oh Gravity!" has gone platinum in the US.

SWITCHFOOT

### Acoustic at the Park

May Bayot and Kearney Amarillo are the featured artists in the "Serenade at the Dark" concert series for the whole month of September at the UCC Dark Café, Glorietta Park, Makati.

Bayot, also known as Acoustic Jinx's lead vocalist, sings jazz, pop, rock, R&B, the blues and reggae every Wednesday.

Amarillo covers Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, Barbra Streisand, "Tin Machine, '80s pop hits plus '90s favorites every Saturday.

Call 638-7162 or 814-7167.

### Bar tour

The progressive neo-metal band Wordlockdogs, grand prize winner of the 2006 Red Horse Mountaineer Rock Challenge, continues its bar tour to promote its debut album

KEARNEY AMARILLO

MAY BAYOT

"Lamat" (Viva Records).

Show dates are on Sept. 5 (Magnet Café Katipunan), Sept. 12 (Club Dentil Eastwood City) and Sept. 13 (UNB East Street).

Guest band is Mayonnaise, plus 10 other groups from Baguio and Manila.

Showtime is at 10 p.m.

### Tonight

Family affair at Merli's Bar & Bistro, Level 2, Greenbelt 5, Makati.

Call 757-4728 or 757-4721.

### Tomorrow

Aretha and the Soaked Out Band at Merli's Bar & Bistro.

Call 757-4728 or 757-4721.

### Sept. 5

May Bayot at UCC Dark Café.

Alexis & Friends featuring Eddie Kwanding, Richard Merli and Judith's Band at Merli's.

# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
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## Concentrate on entertaining–Laguardia

JOET DE LEON

By Rachel B. Cruz

"BE GOOD ROLE MODELS TO YOUR RESPECTIVE audiences; concentrate on entertaining them and improving your shows."

This was the "motherly advice" given on Saturday by Chair Marissa Laguardia of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to kickstarting TV musicians or variety show hosts Willie Revillame and Joey De Leon.

Laguardia initially refrained to step into the mud-way occasioned by a mistake committed by Revillame on ABS-CBN's "Wowowee" on Aug. 26, and which was committed to manipulation of the high stakes (P2 million) game on the show.

De Leon had subsequently made vague allusions to the incident on GMA 7's "Sal Balagat" which he co-hosts.

But on featuring the MTRCB chair "stalled the awareness" of Mahal Chou-Nagasi, "Sir... Balagat" producer, after the board received complaints from viewers on the latest comments made by De Leon and his co-host, Ate Gorio.

"Bumabawi na siyempre Ate si Joey Leon's hinting back again," Laguardia said of her decision to call Chou-Nagasi.

Revillame's Aug. 26 fumble and De Leon's subsequent on-air rib-bings had culminated in the former's "breakdown" on his Aug. 29 show, during which he accused De Leon of picking on

CONCENTRATE G2

MARISSA LAGUARDIA

WILLIE REVILLAME

## In search of the elusive X factor for xFM

Grappling with 'Bristol,' 'house,' 'techno' 'trance' and 'electronica'

Mr. Torres and Raymond Mirasol

By Pachale Concepcion

YOU TURNED ON THE RADIO, SET THE FM dial to 92.3, and you tuned wonderful off, on to different movie settings—running away with Scarlett Johansson in "The Island" or playing with Tom Cruise in "Mission Impossible."

At times, you did toss a contemplative dish. The next moment, you'd be having such a good time that it felt like you were driving around town in breezy weather, with no traffic.

This was the aural atmosphere induced by the music from the station that used to go by the name Jack. It is now known, as of 00, and for the past four months, it has been experimenting with a free form playlist you won't hear anywhere else—except perhaps in dance clubs, or in parties that wind down at sunrise.

Much of the music on xFM isn't so-called "songs" in the conventional sense. That's because many of them don't have vocals, or tend to move like short cinema film. for instance, "Let's make love tonight ..." is spliced with atmospheric studio effects.

It gets more complicated if you try to decipher what the station plug says is EDM music. It's fairly easy to understand "chill out" or "downtempo"—basically, laidback electronic music. (In fact, "chill out" has become part of contemporary English; a means "cool down" or "relax.")

But what about "fretted" (where "trip hop" and "drum 'n' bass" were supposedly born), "house," "techno" "trance" and "electronica"? Strange words, especially to 40-year-olds weaned on the Beatles and the Stones.

Maybe that's why the station's management recently edited out that plug, and concentrated on hyping its cool listeners-save and ever: "Thirst ... xFM."

What it actually plays are various offshoots of dance music— types that were all the rage almost from the late 1980s till about 2000 at all-night warehouse parties and raves.

In these gatherings, the DJ was king,

BHARCH G2

DID YOU KNOW...

Gandolfini at Vaccaro

NEW YORK—JAMES Gandolfini (Tony Soprano) will make his Broadway debut this season in the HBO film.

The movie, "SOCO Gang," is about the youth basketball camp established by Vaccaro, the man who got Michael Jordan to sign the first million dollar shoe deal at Nike.

Confirmed

HBO spokesman Quinn Tamarkin confirmed the project—first reported by Variety—is in development with HBO Films.

The Vaccaro film will not be Gandolfini's first on-screen appearance on HBO after coincidentally his eight-year run on "The Sopranos" in June. He is currently in production of "Killer Joe Motivation," "Home from Iraq," which premieres Sept. 9.

AP

WHEN HAIRLOSS GETS SERIOUS

When your hairloss progresses to more than just a few hairs now and again, take it seriously. Call Svenson urgently for a no-cost hair and scalp analysis. Find out why you're losing hair and what can be done.

These are many causes - from poor diet, stress, smoking (or stopping smoking) - to hormonal imbalance, vitamin deficiency, styling chemicals and hair dyes. Most are treatable - you can look forward to much healthier, much thicker hair.

Thinning hair not only makes you look older, it can make you feel self-conscious, depressed and insecure. Take it seriously, call the hairloss experts now.

WOMEN AT Svenson

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# Richard, Aga, Mark: Lights, camera, reaction!

THIS PAST WEEK, SOME LUMINARIES HAVE been attracting more than their share of attention, for different reasons. Let's see who come into focus on our Showbizbiz. Lights, Camera—Reaction!

**Richard Gutierrez**

What's up for GMA-7's top-young-adult-male draw after "Lupin"? Let's hope his new series will be more age-appropriate. He was really too young to play his last series' dick and savvy master sleuth with nonplus believability.

In the movies, Richard now has a problem. His hormone-mate, Angel Locsin, has left GMA-7 and GMA Films, leaving Richard to the lurch. Their romantic tandem was a bankable one, and it isn't easy to come up with another profitable combination to replace it.

Pity Richard have to hide his time before making another movie for GMA! That isn't be good for his big-screen career, so careful planning and damage control are in order.

**Aga Muhlach**

The country's top-box-office male lead has the present everyone with his drastic weight loss. Some people say he dropped 30 pounds, but an insider reassures that it's more like 15. Whatever it is, he looks healthier and more handsome than before. Double it, his fans hasn't faired as well. As his current movie, "A Love Story" shows, Aga's weight loss has made him look haggard, which isn't good for an idealized film star. In some scenes, he looks like Al Pacino's younger brother.

But our friends in the health and beauty biz assure us that, with expert supervision, Aga can plump up his face while maintaining his buff bod.

**Mark Gil**

"A Love Story" was a rewarding treat for us partly because it reintroduced us to Mark Gil, who played the supporting role of Manuel Serrano to Sharon Cuneta's "Mare." Mark had only a few scenes in the movie, but he made all of them count with his insightful performance.

As we watched Mark on screen, we flashed back to his stunning role in Mike de Leon's "Batch '81," where he was so good that we thought he could make it to Hollywood, too.

Now that he's caught viewers' attention again in "A Love Story" we hope Mark gets big-ger and more substantial roles from here on in. Besides it, he looks older than his age, so thanks to his recording (record-ed) hairline. We urge him to do something about this.

**Lucy Liu**

The new horror film, "Rise: Blood Hunter," stars Lucy Liu as a "dead woman walking." She plays an investigative reporter who uncovers a secret cult that attacks the young Spartans of LA.

**'Hair'**

The Atenco's Theater Arts season presents How Gen-ers' "Hair," ongoing at the Fine Arts Studio Theater. Time-couples discover true art in the midst of a period overshadowed by and the awakening of exhausted country spirit." Performances run weekends until Sept. 26.

**Feedback**

From Gerly de Castro, TV advocacy Group, Alalay Chapter: "In Channel 2's 'Margarita' at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 14, one title character was shown singing, collapsed alike with a man touching her legs, kissing her arms and neck, and wearing money as bet. Scenes like this suggest that the soap should be taken off our prime time, when there are many children viewing, or shown later in the evening."

# In search of the elusive X factor for xFM

From page B1

working the crowd with all sorts of records and mixes to their screwed better appreciated with laser light and the drug fantasy.

That scene died a natural death but gave birth to ... while that play club out music. But then there's ... pound for for a new, revitalized rave scene abroad, ... though people would rather be called "clubbers" ... tread of severe noise, and the events they attend ... referred to as just "parties."

In any case, a throw-a-local-audience-large enough for xFM to attract as former boss? While it's ... that there was a local rave scene several years ago ... and there are many clubs now around Metro Manila ... though people would rather be called "clubbers" ... cabooshs of electronic dance music, is that ... enough to lure us outs on a daily basis?

Apparently, there's a major adjustment going ... at the station. The recently and atmospheric scene ... that used to greet us in the mornings are now ... and his listeners. What is supposed to be the event ... piece music is heard only on Wednesdays and Sundays through the syndicated Mixmay of famed ... chine in England.

**Pop and light jazz**

Lately, daytime programming on xFM is veering ... toward a combination of pop and light jazz.

How else to explain Michael Franks on a weekday ... morning? Or Bruce Hornsby's "The Way It Is," Phil ... Collins' "Easy Lover" and "In the Air Tonight," Cyndi ... Lauper's "Time After Time," Ambrosia's "Biggest ... Part of Me" and Manhattan Transfer's "Smile ... Again"?

Well, Steely Dan's "Hey Nineteen" is refreshing ... after a long while, but isn't James Ingram's "What ... ever We Imagine" or Earth, Wind & Fire's "Fantasy" ... too, uh, under for a rave station to stoop with?

The buccons asked Al Torres who, as manager ... director, is responsible, along with president and ... CEO Raymund Mitanda, for plotting out xFM's ... musical and directional "journey, explained that, ... though the crowd that's into electronic music isn't ... which xFM wants to cater to) is big enough to be ... called a "community," it's not wise to alienate other ... listeners who may think the station is too elitist.

In the early weeks of broadcast and in initial pre-interviews, xFM appeared bent on having no talking ... DJs — or none beyond song introductions and station ... identification — in between the music. But perhaps Torres should reconsider this stance, if he wants to reach out to more listeners. Besides, how does one become acquainted with chill out music when nobody ... identifies the artists and song titles?

In the late '70s/all about the mid-'80s, Torres did a great job as station manager of 99.5 RT. It's been wondering if he can find the "x-factor" that would transform xFM into something "extraordinary" rather than the unknown mathematical variable that its first call letters signifies.

GUTIERREZ

MUHLACH

GIL

# Concentrate on entertaining . . .

Frontpage 61

hide her no reason. "Maybe we keep closing endless! (Where he's not exactly clear)," Bellisario said.

Which, of course, resulted in more pained twitchers from De Leon's camp.

Legarda's race with Pacificano on Thursday. And "when emotions are at longest running high," she said she would also move with De Leon.

Hair as a graven racist official, Legarda assured, but as a voter.

She called most clear irregularities in TV game shows, if any, did not fall under the MTRCB's jurisdiction.

"I'd like them to pack things up," Legarda told Inquirer. However, more "I appeal to Duals to act with maturity, to be gra- fessionals, because they are identified as fan of Filipinos."

**Won Best Film in the last Cinemalaya Film Competition**

This film project is based on the 2006 Palanca Award winning screenplay, "Tribu" about the violent lives of street gang members, young urban hiphop poets in Tondo. As seen from the eyes of a 15 year old boy. This Rhyposaint, a breakout psychotic poet, writer and sociologist, produced a short documentary on the hiphop/gangsta phenomenon which aired on national television in 2001. But sensing that the TV feature is not enough, he went back to his Tondo roots and spent more time with various gangs (also called "tribes" therein, the title). further documenting their experiences and street poetry/hiphop culture. The author / proponent believes that complexities and subtleties of the story of these poor, yet highly talented urban youth can only truly be told using the more sophisticated language of cinema.

watch this only at Robinsons Metropole Galleria
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## AT THE CINEMAS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GLORIETTA 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| GLORIETTA 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| GREENBELT 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| GREENBELT 3 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| MARKET! MARKET! | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| TRINOMA | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | 5 | 6 | 7 | |

## AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

- Glorietta — Philippine Daily Inquirer's Job Fair, September 3 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center
- Greenbelt — Sounds of Greenbelt Sampling: Soundtrack, September 8, 2007 at the Greenbelt 3 Park
- Alabang Town Center — Avenue's Bullshit!, September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
- Ayala Center Cebu — Ethel Theme of American Idol Cast, September 28, 6 PM, OnStage (Cinema 1)
- Market! Market! — Lantern Idol Show, September 6 & 8, 2007 at the Activity Center
- Cinebaglio — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids, at 4501's Onion Theater - Opera August 11, 2007, For inquiries, pls. call 887-4710
- Ayala Museum — Orchestrion: Homage to the Instruments, August 31 to September 16, 2007, For more info, pls. call 816-3713 loc. 31 or e-mail museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
- Tri Noma — Samsung Exhibit, An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones, September 14 to 16, 10am to 9 pm, Starbucks 1 Food Atrium Level 1

# ENTERTAINMENT

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Text or your feedback

# RP on the current world indie map

By Marinel R. Cruz

PIDGO Pascual in "Chopsuey"

LAV DIAZ'S "DEATH in the Land of Encanto," about a poet whose hometown was ravaged by a typhoon, is among 13 films competing for the Artistic Innovation Award at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival, Sept. 6 to 15.

Lav's film is up against Hans Hablowitsch's "Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame" (Afghanistan), Jose Luis Guerin's "Dans La Ville de Sylvia" (Spain), Rolf de Heer's "Dr. Plonk" (Australia), Atsuko Hirayanagi's "Funeraria" (Japan/Brazil), Lee Myung-se's "3" (South Korea), Michelange Quay's "Mexico, the Last Frontier" (France), Lawrence Johnston's "Night" (Australia), Alexander Rodgers' "Dish" (Canada), Christian Frosch's "Silent Sunshine" (Australia), Hiner Saleem's "Sons les vents de Pluie" (France), Naoji Shimazu's "Three Three" (Iran) and Dorota Kedzierzawska's "Time to Die" (Poland).

The jury is composed of Dutch multimedia artist Lonnie van Brummelen, Canadian physioconceptual artist Ian Wallace and her designer Mina Hamada, according to an article on the Hollywood Reporter.

## "Kalendar"

Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kalendar (The Bill Collector)" is one of 36 entries across the U.S., Canada and Europe.

## "Chopsuey"

Mainstream actor Pido Pascual is a young man forced to assume the role of a patriarch after his parents' untimely death in Catherine Camarillo's "Chopsuey."

The family drama about a Chinese-Filipino family in Ongpin is told from the point-of-view of the eldest and only son, Jimmy (Pido). He takes care of his sisters (Andrea del Rosario, Dimples Romana and Irma Raisilla).

"Chopsuey" is Pido's second independent film, the first being Cesar Fernando's 2000 romcom, "Kapit ng Uhaw," where the multi-awarded actor plays a Hah hooker.

Camarillo, a graduate of journalism from the University of the Philippines, has worked as assistant director on some of Vilma's programs and films for ABS-CBN.

"Chopsuey" will be shown in local theaters starting Sept. 5.

# Ringo Starr talks about aging and how he stays in the game

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA—FORGET "When I'm 64." Ringo Starr, 67-year-old ex-Beatle, still has the musical drive and looks of a rock 'n' roller half his age. And he sells it, too.

Seated in a muted hotel room recently in Beverly Hills, Starr looked almost too blasé and slovenly (one flicked with blue pen sensibly his own nothingness, he declared).

His eponymous double only left his face once, exchanged for a mind pair of glasses. For the past 20 years, there's eyes have remained twill-hidden, symbolic of his rock star soul.

"Photograph: The Very Best of Ringo Starr"—culled from his solo career and idiosyncratic collection of tunes from 1970-2005—showcases no (2) tracks (eg. 26. Between zips of some), Starr stacked plates and chatted with The Inquirer of How about aging, the past, and staying in the game.

**How did you pick the songs for the new album?**

Actually, we had a set of tracks we could use, going back to Capitol in the early days. What was great was, Capitol/EMI expanded it, which they don't usually do. Usually the label only uses (16 cuts) tunes. They actually were using just tracks off 2000's "Choose Love" CD, off different labels. It's a great representation of the stuff I've done in the last 400 years.

**Any favorites in particular? The "Ha-Ha Song," from 1974, was an excellent about hard party rag.**

I have great memories of where are recorded that, because the last thing any of us were doing was saying "no" to those days. "Photograph" is beautiful. That's one of the best songs I've ever written. I was writing it with George Harrison, so that developed. In those days, and still to this day, I only play three chords. I'd write three songs, and then I'd give them to George and he would put in 10 more chords, and they'd think I was the genius.

**As Ringo, you're 67 this summer.**

You'll have to speak up (laughs).

**And it was also the 40th anniversary of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" recently.**

How great!

**Robert, if you would, on aging as a musician. You've mentioned in interviews about seeing Bob Dylan perform, and some days he's clear, and some days he's not.**

That's just how he is. We were actually talking about going to see Bob, and seeing Bob many times, and you get what Bob gives you. The last time I saw him, it was hard to recognize the songs. But the time before, he was clear as a bell. Bob is great. He just had a No. 1 record and that's what it's about. Not in the game, I'm still making records. I'm still playing.

**Has the creative process changed?**

It hasn't changed at all. You write your songs; you play your drums. You get some friends around, and you make a record. They would like me to make a duets album, like Sinatra did. I don't really want to do that. I have a lot of guests on my CDs anyway, like Chrissie Hynde and Willie Nelson.

**Where are you touring again?**

Where we go on tour ... and who will go with me, I don't know yet—it won't be until next summer. I've finished my new CD, which will be out in January.

**There's been a story for years, that you used to put a packet of cigarettes on your drum riser to muffle its sound. What was that about?**

It was too bright. I've always liked a deep sound, and so I put my pack of cigarettes on it, to take it down a notch. Post (I started) putting two towels on top of everything. Then I put towels on every drum.

**You can use the towels to wipe off sweat, too.**

Oh yes, I still feel have a cigarette after the set, I don't do that anymore.

Rahul Sehgal, AP

The creative process hasn't changed for him, says this former Beatles drummer.

TAKE FIVE

CLICK!

## 'Striker!' on NGC

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL REVEALS THE science behind the rattlesnake strike: how this predator finds the best and most comfortable ambush area; how it devotes its endocrine prey, even in the dark; and how it moves at lightning speed with amazing precision. "Strikes!" airs tonight at 7.

## '300'

"300," a retelling of the ancient Greek battle of Thermopylae where some 300 Spartans fought off a million-strong Persian army, makes it video debut through Warner Home Video.

It stars Gerard Butler as the Spartan King Leonidas and Lena Headey as Queen Gorgo.

## 'We Are Marshall'

NOW ON DISC

"We Are Marshall" tells the inspiring story of how a small town in West Virginia struggled to cope with loss after one of the worst disasters in American sports history.

The 1969 version of the movie, which stars David Strathairn, Matthew Fox and Matthew McConaughey, includes the documentary "Legendary Coaches: How Coaches Overcome Adversity."

# Only 4 left in H'wood boot camp

RALPHNY THROUGH THE (12th) portion, the challenge resembles in QTV 11's "Hollywood Boot Camp," 6:30 Monday nights. Four remain: Kristi Kaine (with a bruised coat and cast by four have remained).

In the pilot episode, Kevin Trinidad was eliminated. His offense? Unoriginal work.

In a challenge that called for in creative ideas, Kevin chose to create his Oliver's death scene from "Braveheart," leaving a sour impression on judges Kacy Andrews and Liani Finn.

The remaining seven contestants were split into teams in episode 4, and given the challenge of preliminary to forming and an action directing. In the process, Team Jeepney, composed of Miguel Vazquez, Rhico Salonga and team leader Denise Aguado, established cohesiveness and won the challenge.

But all was not well with Team Rival, composed of leader Apple Pumble and members Chivoy Aviles, Sandy Vivian and Shereen Saipol. Questions were raised about Apple's capacity to lead. Shereen seemed unable to play with the team and group comic Chivoy irritated because the second to get booted out.

Episode 5 took a peek inside the world of Hollywood special effects (prosthetics, makeup and the creative efforts of wardrobe). While both teams challenged to create a character victim complete with an accompanying scene and background story, Team Rival narrowly beat Team Jeepney.

## Blame, conflict

While members of Team Rival gladly received the news, Team Jeepney's chosen leader for the challenge, Miguel, blamed his members for the loss. Forgetting the cohesiveness his team had achieved in episode 2, and in a manner contradicting that of a leader, Miguel's attitude quickly got him the boot.

This same conflict continued in episode 6, with Shereen's unable to collaborate with the rest of Team Rival. Instead of working with her team on that episode's tasks in Art and Social, Shereen went her way and spend herself on things not everything except the given challenge. Her disregard for the value led to her team's fate and her dismissal from the show.

The show's ultimate winner will receive $50,000 or a film development package worth $20,000, which includes the use of Right Entertainment's state-of-the-art production and post production facilities and equipment in Manila, Cebu.

The winner will also receive a two-year contract with Digicon and guaranteed work on the international film projects.

Hollywood Boot Camp's official site is www.hollywoodbootcamp.net.

SWEATING IT (from left): Miguel Vazquez, Denise Aguado, Sandy Vivian (partly covered) and Apple Pumble